

Abu Nidal claims cross-border raid

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said Israeli troops killed three of its fighters attacking military targets in Israel Wednesday. The group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said the fighters died in a clash with Israeli troops near the northern Israeli settlement of Kibbutz Dan. "Our heroes succeeded in destroying an Israeli vehicle and killing or wounding several enemy soldiers. Three of our heroes were killed," the statement said. It named the three as Ramzi Zuhair, Khaleel Ali and Izzat Faraj. In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army said three captives were shot dead by an army patrol inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The pre-dawn clash occurred just north of a collective settlement after soldiers on a routine patrol spotted the commandos and opened fire, the army announcement said. It was the second attempted infiltration in nine days at the same location and the 10th across Israel's borders since November.

Jordan Times

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Iraq receives Egyptian aircraft

CAIRO (R) — Egypt completed an Iraqi order for 80 Tucano training aircraft Wednesday and officials said talks were going on with other Arab states interested in buying the plane. Egyptian pilots flew the last three of the turboprop two-seater planes to Iraq after a ceremony attended by Iraqi Air Force Chief of Staff Major-General Salem Sultan. Youssef Mustafa, general manager of the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), said Egypt was willing to meet Arab demands for military hardware. Egypt also produces and assembles the French-designed Alpha jet advanced training and ground support aircraft as well as helicopters, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles, armoured vehicles, artillery and a wide range of ammunition. "We are proud to have in Egypt such military industries carried out by Arab hands," Sultan said. AOI has also delivered the first two of 40 Tucanos ordered by Egypt's own air force. Mustafa said the Egyptian order would be completed by the end of the year. Officials said negotiations were under way with several Arab states, which they declined to name, to buy the Brazilian-designed aircraft, capable of carrying light weapons.

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Crown Prince meets students

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the Royal Court Wednesday evening with a group of promising students from the University of Jordan to discuss political, economic and educational issues of concern to Jordan. The Crown Prince briefed the students on current events in the Middle East and Jordan's stand, and tackled the Kingdom's economic and administrative problems. In reference to educational development, Prince Hassan said that the First National Conference on Education held last year aimed to overhaul the country's educational system. He said the next phase will involve the re-examination of higher education, with a view to adapting it to the needs of the local and Arab labour markets.

Khayyat, Khleifat meet Omani minister

MUSCAT (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Youth Minister Awad Khleifat met here Wednesday with Omani Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Helal Ibn Saud Ibn Hareb and discussed with him bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

Zawaideh returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh returned to Amman Wednesday evening after attending the 11th meeting of the U.N. Committee on Human Settlements in New Delhi. The committee endorsed a resolution calling for reconstruction of Arab homes demolished by the Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza, Zawaideh said. He did not give details.

Jordan urges action to end Gulf war

GUATEMALA (Petra) — The head of Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting here has urged parliamentarians of all countries to exert efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. Rizek Al Bataineh, member of the Lower-House of Parliament, said that the conflict had caused the death of hundreds of thousands of people and millions of dollars in material losses. Bataineh said that the Arab-Israeli conflict "represents one of the major world crises and is being aggravated by Israeli atrocities and killing of innocent people trying to resist occupation."

N. Yemen urges support for uprising

SANAA (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called for an emergency Arab summit meeting to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, Radio Sanaa said Wednesday. Following talks in Sanaa with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Saleh said the summit should study ways of providing Arab support for the Palestinians. The radio said that, in addition to the situation in the occupied territories, Saleh and Arafat discussed the "dangerous escalation in the Gulf war."

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Israel uses nerve gas against Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 70-year-old Palestinian woman died Wednesday after inhaling tear-gas in a clash with Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip, and a United Nations doctor said Israeli soldiers were using highly toxic gases against Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories.

The woman's death raised the death toll to at least 144 Palestinians and two Israelis in the four-month-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Shifa Hospital in Gaza said the woman was overcome by tear-gas fired by troops at Jabalya refugee camp. She was the second Palestinian in two days to die after inhaling tear-gas.

The army said a 21-year-old boy was overcome by tear-gas at Sha'ti camp in the Gaza Strip Tuesday during a protest against

the expulsion Monday of eight Palestinians to Lebanon for anti-occupation activity.

In Vienna, the director of health of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Israel had used highly toxic gases against protesters in Gaza, causing at least two deaths and several miscarriages.

John Hiddlestone, a former New Zealand director of health and senior official in the World Health Organisation (WHO), said Israeli troops were using the

new gases in addition to normal tear-gas against Palestinian protesters.

One kind of gas caused severe abdominal pain and another immobilised its victims by weakening the muscles when inhaled, he said.

In one incident he said two young men were beaten and put into a room and an aerosol spray was sprayed into the room. "The room was then shut and after an hour or so two dead bodies were removed."

He said samples of the spray, which formed a reddish powder on the walls, had been sent to the International Red Cross for analysis.

"We have not yet had the results of that analysis but it looked as though these were some very toxic nerve gas," he added.

Hiddlestone also described injuries resulting from beatings of

(Continued on page 4)

Hijack negotiations reportedly in 'delicate phase' on Algiers tarmac

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Hijackers holding 32 hostages on a Kuwaiti Airways Boeing 747 under the scorching Algiers sun Wednesday demanded talks, showing their first signs of impatience since landing at the airport there earlier in the day.

An Algerian official boarded the plane, where the eight hijackers and their remaining captives were sweltering through the ninth

day of the hijacking, and Algerian state radio said talks to end the drama were in a "delicate phase."

The man, identified by Algerian radio as a member of the Algerian negotiating team, went aboard the plane for 25 minutes after the hijackers, who killed two Kuwaiti hostages in Cyprus, told the control tower: "We want a dialogue."

Reports from Kuwait said the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, spoke by telephone to the leaders of Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon and Jordan "as part of efforts Kuwait is making on the highest levels to end the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and save the innocent passengers."

A delegation of Kuwaiti officials arrived in Algiers Wednesday afternoon to help in the effort to free the plane, hijacked April 5 on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait with 112 people aboard.

The gunmen are demanding that Kuwait free 17 pro-Iranian extremists convicted in the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait.

Kuwait Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah affirmed Wednesday his country's "unwavering and principled stance of rejecting blackmail," the Kuwait News Agency reported. "We would not change our attitude..."

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq says Iranians mauled in Kurdistan; no let-up seen in raging missile attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it fired three missiles into Tehran and its troops beat back an Iranian offensive in the strategic Kurdistan province, wiping out four Iranian brigades in 60 hours of fighting.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iraqi troops launched a series of counterattacks Tuesday night, seeking to recapture territory they lost in the area. Iran also reported firing two missiles at an Iraqi town.

It said 3,500 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in the offensive launched Monday across the mountainous border, south of the town of Penjwin. Iraq has said over 6,000 Iranians were killed in the battle.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said two long-range missiles were fired simultaneously into Tehran at 12:20 p.m. (0820 GMT). A third was fired at 2:30 p.m. (1030 GMT).

IRNA said four people were killed and several wounded in the first barrage.

Iraq has fired 123 projectiles into Tehran since the latest round of the so-called "war of the cities" flared Feb. 29.

Iraqi gunners lobbed two such missiles into Tehran and another two into Tabriz, in northwest Iran, Tuesday.

Iran launched two rockets Tuesday at the town of Al Amarah in south Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

It said the missiles were aimed at military and economic centres

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King meets Sabbah, Obeidi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Roman Catholic (Latin) Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah and congratulated him on his appointment as the first Arab patriarch in Jerusalem, especially that the appointment came under the current circumstances in the occupied Arab territories.

The audience was attended by the head of the Latin community in Jordan, Archbishop Salim Al Sayegh, and Monsignor Ra'ouf Najjar.

The King also received Wednesday the outgoing secretary-general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Mahdi Al Obeidi.

The King paid tribute to Obeidi's efforts during his term towards strengthening Arab economic integration and boosting joint Arab action and wished him success in his next mission.

Jordanians rally behind national stands

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU) and the Union of Jordanian Writers Wednesday voiced deep appreciation of and pride in the national stands of His Majesty King Hussein.

In a cable sent to the King, GJTU President Sameer Qardan expressed deep pride in the King's stands and continuing efforts aimed at building Arab solidarity and achieving a durable and honourable solution of the Palestinian problem.

In a statement issued here Wednesday, the Union of Jordanian Writers said that the six-point Jordanian memo handed over last week to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was an Arab document and should be the basis for any settlement to the Palestinian problem. The statement said Jordan's firm stand as declared in the paper represented a wise and national course towards peace in the region.

Khaled Abu Khurma, president of the General Association of the Employees of General Services and Independent Professionals, also sent a cable to the King voicing the association's appreciation of the King's national stands towards Arab causes.

Mayors and chairmen of village councils in Karak and Maan governorates and in the districts of Jerash, Salt, Deir Alla, South Shouneh, northern Jordan Valley, and Bani Kananah Wednesday also expressed deep appreciation of and pride in the national policies laid down by King Hussein.

In cables sent to the King, they reiterated total support for Jordan's firm stands as spelled out in the memo handed over to Shultz.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah and outgoing Council of Arab Economic Unity Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi (Petra photos)

Rifai: Uprising should be used politically to achieve objectives

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has said that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza should be used politically to achieve its objectives.

"We do not believe that political exploitation of the uprising will abort the revolt... supporting the uprising and enabling it to achieve its objectives is a duty," the prime minister said Tuesday in an address to a gathering organised by the American University Alumni Club.

"If we want to maintain the current international momentum and efforts for peace in the Middle East we should nurture the momentum of the uprising..." Rifai said. "If the uprising ends then the U.S. initiative will stop and the international community's interest in the problem will come to an end," he said.

"We used to hear people say that political moves were pointless without a pan-Arab action which can exert pressure and affect the situation and this argument was justified in the past," the prime minister said.

"But, we now have a pressure factor represented in the uprising which led to the current international moves but we still hear someone ask why should we talk to (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz and why should we take part in peace efforts which could abort the uprising."

"When we review U.S. efforts to settle the Middle East problem we notice that after 1967 U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 was issued thanks to American approval," he said. "Following that resolution the Gona Jarring mission started, followed by the Rogers initiative, the 1973 war

and Security Council Resolution 338 — which also came upon U.S. initiative — and finally the question of an international conference," Rifai said.

"After the 1973 war, the Kissinger shuttle began, followed by the disengagement of forces in Sinai and the Camp David accords," Rifai added. "Once the situation settled, U.S. efforts stopped, only to resume after the outbreak of the new Middle East war which is the uprising..."

Rifai said the momentum of the ongoing uprising should be maintained so as to keep international peace efforts alive.

Abu Odeh: Uprising most significant development

Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh also addressed Tuesday's

(Continued on page 4)

Shevardnadze due in Mideast soon

AMMAN (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit the Middle East soon, the Soviet embassy said Wednesday.

A spokeswoman said he would come to the region, but gave no details of his itinerary.

The Al Dustour newspaper quoted Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zinbuk as saying Shevardnadze would bring no specific new Middle East peace initiative with him.

A visit by Shevardnadze, the first to Jordan by a Soviet foreign minister, would follow an official visit to Moscow by King Hussein in December and would set the seal on a marked improvement in Soviet-Jordanian ties over the past few years.

"Shevardnadze will visit the region to coordinate bilateral stands on regional issues and develop further cooperation," Al Dustour quoted Zinbuk as saying.

"This visit has no link with proposing a new Soviet initiative because this nothing to justify undertaking new initiatives," the envoy said.

Jordanian officials have not commented on the Soviet minister's visit or on reports that U.S.

Secretary of State George Shultz might return to the Middle East to work on his peace initiative after meeting Shevardnadze in Moscow April 21.

A Foreign Ministry official indicated that Jordan would welcome talks with either man. "Our doors are open," he said.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai told Reuters Monday Jordan and the Soviet Union held similar views on the Middle East.

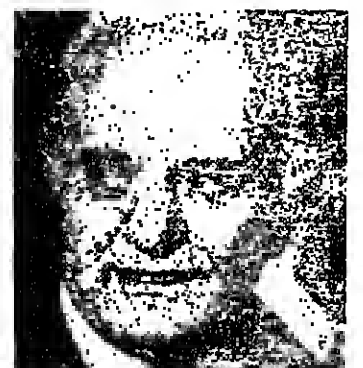
"We are having very close consultations with the Soviet Union and I don't believe there are any disagreements between us about the basic principles," he said.

"We are very close in terms of the (international peace) conference we would like to see. They of course agree that the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) should be represented and that the Palestinian people should have the right of self-determination."

Moscow has long backed Jordan's call for a U.N.-sponsored international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rifai said King Hussein had played a role in promoting agreement on a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"He was quite instrumental in



Eduard Shevardnadze

trying to overcome some of the hurdles that stood in the way of the signature of the accords in Geneva and we were very happy with the result of his contacts," Rifai said.

Historic Afghan pact signed today

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and the United States sign Thursday a historic agreement on withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"It's a tremendous achievement," U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck said of the accord as officials from the two superpowers, who will act as guarantors of the agreement, checked last details of the 39-page agreement.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was due to arrive late Wednesday. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was expected to fly in shortly before the signing ceremony Thursday afternoon.

Under the agreement, negotiated over six years, the Soviet Union will pull all its troops out of Afghanistan. But the pact will not guarantee peace. Rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul say they will press on with their nine-year-old war until the government falls.

Diplomats say the Soviet Union is pouring military supplies into Afghanistan, where it has an estimated 115,000 troops. They also say the United States is sending extra shipments to the rebels ahead of the Soviet withdrawal, which is due to start May 15.

Washington and Moscow have agreed to balance their supply of arms to their allies from that date, the diplomats say.

The United States wants military supplies to end. Some diplomats say Moscow has indicated it will restrict its military aid, but it has not told Washington this officially.

Free zones hope to attract more investments

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Free Zones Corporation (FZC) is simplifying its regulations and procedures as well as reducing charges for its various facilities in Aqaba and Zarqa and near Ramtha, in a bid to attract more investors and industrialists, according to the FZC director-general.

Yassin Al Kayed also revealed that the corporation had given primary approval for a proposal to set up a Syrian-Chinese joint venture in the joint Jordanian-Syrian free zone near Ramtha. In fact, the plant, which will process vegetable oil, will be the first facility to be set up in the zone, which was established in early 1986 but lacked takers until now.

In an interview with the Jordan Times early this week, Kayed expressed optimism that the performance of the corporation would be considerably improved with more simplified regulations and procedures. Asked what was the main reason behind the free zone idea falling short of initial expectations, Kayed cited effects of the world economic recession. According to economists, "interference from authorities outside the corporation" is also one of the factors that contribute to dissuading potential investors.

"We are now trying to simplify the procedures involved in leasing our facilities," Kayed said. "We will also reduce the leasing charges and we hope that the net result will be highly promising." He did not spell out what the simplification process entails.

According to the statute of the corporation, all industrial units set up inside the free zones are exempt from all local regulations and can operate as independent entities subject to certain conditions laid down by the corporation. However, the interpretation of this particular aspect of the statute has always been very vague, according to an economist analyst. "Various other government departments, including the municipalities, the Civil Defence Department and the Ministry of Labour, appear to treat industrial units within the zone as part of their domain and try to exercise control over them," the analyst said.

Obviously, though Kayed did not say so, eliminating this kind of "interference" is the central theme of the changes that the corporation plans to introduce.

"We are optimistic that the free zones will be doing very well in another three to five years," he said.

FZC figures indicate that the corporation was able to pay all its current expenditure and meet debt and interest payments on time during the year 1987, for the first time since the corporation was established in 1976.

Started in 1973

The idea of free zones took shape in Jordan in 1973 when the Ministry of Transport designated an area at Aqaba for storage of goods destined for onward shipment to neighbouring Arab countries, including the Gulf states. The Free Zones Corporation was set up in 1976 as an independent autonomous organisation. Now, the Aqaba free zone has a total area of almost nine million square metres — about 25,000 square metres of large storage warehouses and 300,000 square metres of paved open yards and cold-storage facilities with a capacity of 6,000 tonnes. The area is provided with all essential services, including water supply, power and all communications facilities as well as cargo handling equipment.

The total volume of goods handled by the Aqaba free zone in 1987 was 91,000 tonnes, an increase of 11,000 tonnes over 1986.

The Zarqa free zone, which was set up in 1983, has a total

general area of 5.5 million square metres. The first phase of the zone comprised 125,000 square metres designated as "industrial investment sector" with 28 units, 250,000 square metres assigned for commercial warehouses and exhibition facilities with 150 units, 125,000 square metres for a motor car market with 109 sections and 26,000 square metres of warehouses for general storage. The total investment by the various users of the facilities is estimated to be over JD 75 million.

The Zarqa free zone, which is also equipped with industrial power, water and modern communication facilities handled 56,000 tonnes of goods in 1987, an increase of 12,000 tonnes over 1986.

At present nine industrial plants are operating in the Zarqa free zone producing vegetable oil, readymade garments, agricultural equipment and wooden furniture. They include a very large printing press, Kayed added. About 30 per cent of the production from the plants enter the local market and the rest is exported to other countries in the region, he said.

In addition, the motor car market in Zarqa is doing very well, according to the FZC director general.

Duty-free Aqaba

Kayed said a proposal to declare the whole Aqaba as a free



Yassin Kayed

zone was under consideration but no solid step had been taken yet. "The idea behind the proposal is multi-fold," he said. "A totally duty-free Aqaba can serve the needs of the Gulf Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, and Syria and Iraq as well as Egypt in addition to attracting Jordanians who go to Europe for shopping."

Last, but not the least, it will also help boost tourism and give the hotels in the area much-needed business, he noted. "Of course, hotel facilities, air and sea travel arrangements etc. will also have to be scaled up to meet the potentially high demand," he added.

Kayed said one of the potential problems would be the flow of duty-unpaid foreign goods into the country. But, he noted,

Aqaba is relatively a small area with the sea in the south and high mountains on the east and access to the area is limited to one main road. "Therefore, we should be able to control the situation," he said.

Kayed admitted that business response to the joint Jordanian-Syrian free zone, which opened its doors in 1986, has been practically non-existent. The zone comprises of a total area of 6,000 dunums situated 12 kilometres east of Ramtha. About one quarter of the area is ready for use, with all infrastructure, he said, but there has been very little business interest in the facility. "However, there are recent signs of new interest in the zone. We have given the primary approval for setting up a plant to process vegetable oil under a Syrian-Chinese venture," he said. He said he could not provide details since the project was in its primary stages.

Self-supporting

The government investments in the free zones are over JD 8 million, excluding the cost of land and operational requirements such as motor vehicles and equipment. Actual figures of its income and expenditure for the year 1987 were not available but Muhammad Abu Muhareb, chief of the investments division of the corporation, said that since the beginning of 1987 the corporation was able to meet its expenditure

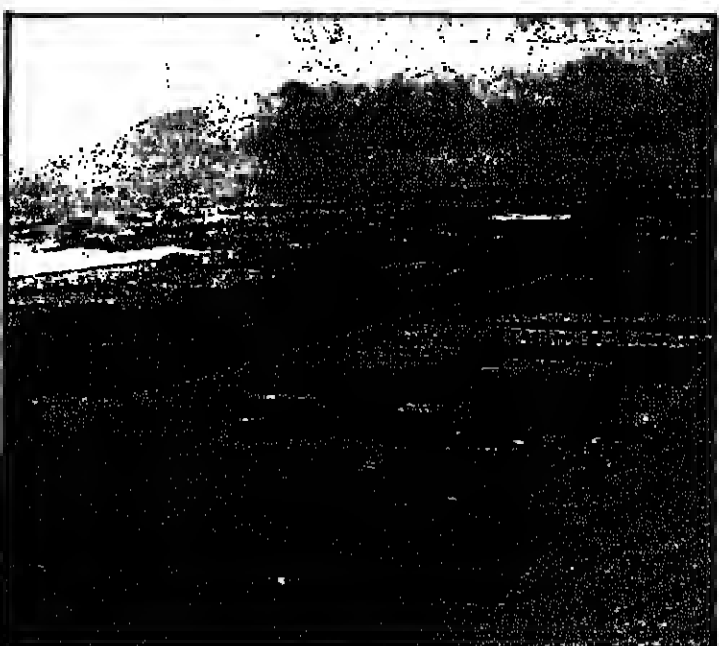
as well as pay debt and interest remittances from its own revenues.

The corporation, which has not set any minimum capital for projects set up in the free zones, receives direct applications which are studied by a three-member panel consisting of a representative each from the Central Bank of Jordan, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the FZC. After evaluation and approval by the panel, the project proposal is sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for consultation purposes, Abu Muhareb said. He stressed that the ministry had no say whether to approve or reject the project but would only make its observations — whether the proposed project has any adverse impact on the local industry — and assessments and forward it to the full board of directors of the FZC which reserves the right to issue the final decision. The board consists of the minister of finance as chairman, the FZC director general as vice-chairman and a representative each of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Finance and Customs, the Ministry of Transport and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The corporation acts as the liaison link between the establishments working within the free zones and the various departments and organisations within the country.

A decision taken by the council of ministers in 1979 designates the approved categories of industries that could be set up in the free zones. The categories include publication and printing, education equipment, metal processing plants, transport and motor vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment, machinery, plastics, food and medicine, building material, wood, toy, textiles, chemicals and light defence products.

Incentives offered by the government for investment activities in the free zones include a seven-year exemption from income and social affairs tax for owners except over profits derived from goods released for consumption in Jordan, exemption from import licence fee and other related charges and exemption from land and building licensing charges. In addition, the salaries and allowances of employees are exempted from income tax and social affairs tax. Above all, transfer of profits to outside the country is freely allowed.



The Aqaba Free Zone



The Zarqa Free Zone

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PAKISTANI RECEPTION: Regional Manager of the Pakistani Airways in Amman Gulam Mohammad Rana hosted a reception Tuesday at the Regency Palace Hotel. Rana delivered a speech at the reception in which he welcomed the guests and paid tribute to the good relations linking Jordan and Pakistan. The reception was attended by the Pakistani ambassador in Amman, senior government and Royal Jordanian officials and representatives of travel agents and the press.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Al Ajlouni Wednesday opened a cultural festival at Ajloun Community College organised in cooperation with the Armed Forces as part of the Kingdom's celebrations marking the 1968 Karamah Battle.

U.S. DEFENCE TEAM: A delegation from the U.S. National Defence College met in Amman Wednesday with Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleh. The delegation which is here upon invitation from the Jordanian Armed Forces discussed with Gen. Abu Taleh Jordan's defence policies and the military situation in the Middle East.

SALT CULTURAL EVENT: The Salt Development Corporation Wednesday opened a three day cultural event at the Salt Cultural Centre in cooperation with a local folkloric troupe. The event entails lectures on the history of Salt given by professors from the University of Jordan, and also a number of exhibitions featuring old coins, stamps and other aspects of folk life.

HEARING IMPAIRED: The Queen Alia Centre for the hearing impaired will take part in an international conference to open Thursday in Italy. The conference will tackle issues connected with problems of speech and hearing for the handicapped.

FAYEZ AND REEVE: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez Wednesday met with British Ambassador in Amman Anthony Reeve and reviewed with him bilateral relations and fields of cooperation between Jordan and Britain.

COURSE CONCLUDES: A one-month-long training course in administrative skills and information was concluded here Wednesday at the Amman-based Near East, North Africa Agricultural Credit Association for 14 participants from the Agricultural Bank in Sudan. The course was held in cooperation with the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS).

MUSIC: Jordan will take part in the first Arab song for youths festival due to open in Baghdad Thursday. Musicians from different Arab countries are expected to take part in the week-long festival sponsored by the Arab Musicians Federation, which plans to hold its annual meeting during the festival and organise a seminar to discuss Arabic music in general.

TELEPHONES: The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has completed expansion work on a telephone network in the Wadi Mousa region in southern Jordan. TCC officials said that the new network covers the districts of Ain, Wadi Mousa, Nawafleh, Fallahat, Manara, Bani Atta and the resthouse near the Petra. The network will contribute positively towards promoting tourism at Petra. The TCC is now involved in a project for supplying Wadihah region with telephone services and later work will start on supplying telephone services to the Qaa' district and a cluster of neighbouring villages.

AFRA CLOSURE: The governor of Tafleh has ordered the closure of Afra mineral water complex as of Wednesday until further notice to allow for construction work at the site to progress without interruption. The governor ordered no visitors and vacationers be allowed in or swim in the area until the construction and maintenance work at the site were completed.

HORSE SHOW: A horse show will be held at the Arabian Horse Club Friday April 15, at 4:00 p.m. Competing in the show jumping events will be Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Hani Bisharat and others. Saturday will see a polo match between the visiting Iraqi team and the Jordanian team at the Zarqa Polo Ground.

SINAI-AQABA TIES: The governors of northern Sinai and Aqaba have signed documents paving the way for bilateral cooperation in youth and cultural affairs. The signing according to Al Dustour Arabic daily took place here by a Jordanian delegation visiting northern Sinai and the head of local council.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Koran
15:30 Programme Review
15:40 Children programmes
17:15 Different strokes
18:10 Moving Camera
18:45 Health and Life (local)
19:20 World news reports
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Review of last week's programme
22:00 Arabic film
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Film credit

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 The Magical World of Chantal Goya
19:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kite and Arrow
21:10 Wish Me Luck
21:40 News in English
22:00 Feature film "Cause Celebre"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
partly on 950 KHz, SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Country Music
11:30 Hissville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Hall of Fame
14:40 Concert Hour
15:00 News Summary
15:05 Instrumental
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Hissville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:00 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:30 Programme Review
18:40 Rainbow Rite
19:30 Cartoons and Children Programs
19:40 Religious series
20:30 Friday's prayer
21:30 Sport magazine
21:40 Art and Crafts
21:55 Venice
22:00 Arabic Comedy
22:15 Believe it or Not
22:45 News reports
23:00 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
23:20 News in Arabic
23:30 Programme review
23:40 News in Arabic
23:50 A programme on the West Bank

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Classical Record

Review 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Peckles' Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Great Love Duets 09:40 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Juke Box Dury 10:45 Network 10:50 News Summary 11:00 Newsdesk 11:15 World News 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Society Today 13:00 News Summary followed by Assignment 13:30 King Street Junior 14:00 World News 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 News 14:20 A Letter from England 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 2 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Folk in Britain 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5 Minute News 17:45 Write On... 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Assignment 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:09 A Letter from England 20:15 Citizens 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Discovery 22:00 Outlook, opening with 5 Minute News 22:45 Here's the Hump! 23:00 World News 23:09 Twenty-Hours: News Summary 23:30 Meridian 24:00 News Summary followed by Talking From... 06:15 A Jolly Good Show

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9505, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 Music USA 10:40 News 10:50 Focus 10:55 News 11:00 Newsline 11:30 Focus 11:35 News 11:45 Newsline 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 Focus 12:35 News 12:45 Newsline 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 Focus 13:35 News 13:45 Newsline 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 Focus 14:35 News 14:45 Newsline 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 Focus 15:35 News 15:45 Newsline 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 Focus 16:35 News 16:45 Newsline 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Focus 17:35 News 17:45 Newsline 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Focus 18:35 News 18:45 Newsline 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Focus 19:35 News 19:45 Newsline 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Focus 20:35 News 20:45 Newsline 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Focus 21:35 News 21:45 Newsline 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 Focus 22:35 News 22:45 Newsline 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 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Sharif Zaid attends ceremony at Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra, J.T.) — A ceremony was held in Irbid for transferring the Yarmouk torch from the ancient site of the Battle of Yarmouk, west of the Sabra Khirah town, to the Yarmouk University campus.

The Battle of Yarmouk was fought between the Arabs led by Khalid Ibn Al Walid and the Byzantine forces, and ended in a decisive victory for the Arab forces in the year 636 A.D.

Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior army officers attended the ceremony, during which the torch was brought into the campus by marathon runners and handed to Sharif Zaid who installed it at its new site.

After the ceremony, Sharif Zaid opened an exhibition, displaying traditional art and national heritage along with national costumes, and artificial flowers.

He also attended a variety show organised at the Yarmouk University and received the university's Khalid Ibn Al Walid shield from Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan, commemorating the event and the university's 10th anniversary.

Prince Hassan chairs meeting on development of Hammad Basin

AMMAN (Petra) — Regional development in Jordan, projects to develop the Hammad Basin near the Iraqi border and two semi-arid regions in south and south-east Jordan were discussed at a meeting held at the prime minister's office Wednesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan first held a closed meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifa and then they were joined for an enlarged meeting that grouped ministers of agriculture, water and irrigation, planning, interior, municipal and rural affairs as well as a number of senior officials.

Projects in the eight development regions of the Kingdom were reviewed by the meeting, which stressed the importance of

constant coordination among various concerned departments and the private sector in the course of implementing schemes.

Emphasis was laid on the implementation of housing projects for government employees in different regions, and near and around development projects.

Participants in the meeting agreed on the need to give due care for the development of badia regions and benefit from the experiments of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

Prince Hassan, the prime minister and the participants heard a briefing on the implementation of the Hammad Basin and the development schemes to be carried out within the basin zone, which will have an overall cost of JD 3.6 million.

The meeting was told that machinery for these development projects began to arrive at the region of the Hammad Basin, and that a tender for drilling artesian wells and building dams for the agricultural projects are to be announced soon.

At the end of the meeting it was announced that agreement was reached on the formation of two work teams which will conduct "model studies" on the Wadi Araba region extending from the southern tip of the Dead Sea to Aqaba and Al Jafr south-east of Jordan.

The two teams will focus attention on problems that impede development in the two regions and lay down solutions and comprehensive programmes for integrated development.

Project management seminar ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-week seminar on project management organised by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah, ended in Amman Wednesday.

The seminar was designed to orient participants on planning and executing projects and various

techniques used in their management and their control.

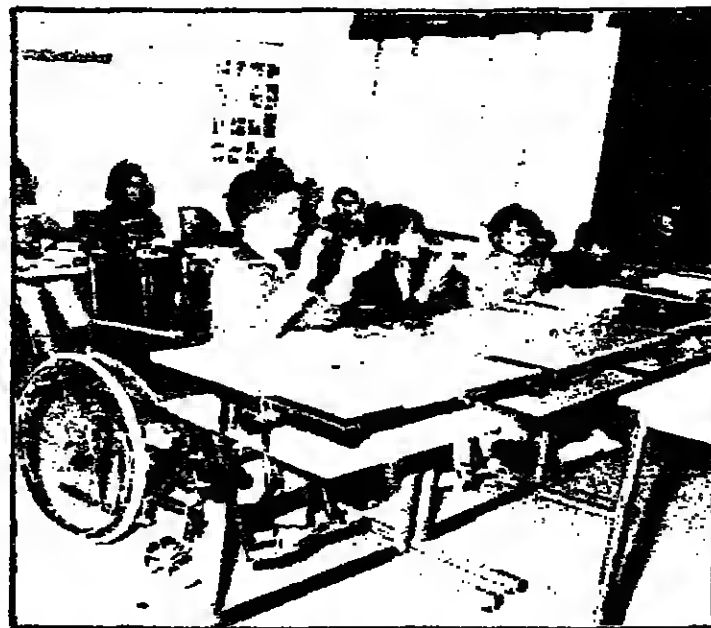
A total of 22 participants, representing credit, investment and financing corporations and organisations in 15 Arab countries, took part in the seminar, hearing a total of 13 lectures and making field trips to local organisations.

The Islamic Development Bank's Institute for Research and

Training, which arranged for the seminar, was established in 1979 to carry out training and research activity in cooperation with IDB's member states.

The IDB itself was established in 1975 for the purpose of supporting and financing the economies of Islamic countries.

A total of 43 Islamic countries hold capital in the IDB.



Physically handicapped children are trained, by Queen Alia Fund sponsored centres, to become active and productive members of the Jordanian society.



Jordanian women develop their skills at centres supported by the Queen Alia Fund.

Princess Basma highlights experiences of Queen Alia Fund after 10 years

QAF seeks to train teachers for more professional approach

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) ended its tenth year in operation with an aim to shift gears and move towards professionalisation of its services through more advanced training of its teachers and workers, and practical application of expertise gained in the first ten years.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the fund's chairman of the board of trustees, told reporters Wednesday, that in its plans for the future the fund hopes to "concentrate more on training the workers at the fund's centres for a more professional approach."

At a press conference held at the fund's centre, Princess Basma said that since its establishment, the fund has concentrated on social welfare work aimed at supporting and developing the activities of existing welfare organisations, as well as establishing new centres, especially in rural areas.

The fund has so far, established nineteen social welfare centres, which constitute 75 per cent of the total of such centres established in the Kingdom, as well as four rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

The fund's support, Princess Basma added, came in the form of help in the areas of child care, Jordanian women skill development, health and social education as well as the development of education services for the handicapped in Jordan.

Princess Basma stressed that the fund helps in mainly rural areas of Jordan because they are the areas that most urgently need help, and who have no centres nearby, which could extend support, unlike the city where it is only a short distance away.

Princess Basma said, the foundation will concentrate its efforts on training teachers of pre-school children to shift away from "old fashioned teaching methods," while also being trained to spot the children with slow learning problems or hidden handicaps.

Princess Basma stressed that the fund has always exerted "substantial efforts to realise and maintain the quality of its social services, so that 'the quantitative aspects of our work should not outweigh the qualitative ones.'"

But she added that the fund will work even more towards achieving that goal in the near future.

She said this method has proved to be an effective response to the needs of the less fortunate and the disadvantaged sectors of the Jordanian community.

The targets of the fund, she said, remain reaching people in towns, villages and Bedouin settlements alike. Building on this conviction, the fund has been able to identify "our people's needs, and accordingly has offered services in many rural and urban areas," by supporting the activities of charitable societies on both banks of the Kingdom,

with helpful co-operation of government agencies and private institutions.

The fund operates according to the following principles and aims: To bring together all possible means of support for the government's efforts to develop comprehensive social welfare services; to foster a generation of men and women, characterised by their ability to shoulder responsibilities so that they may voluntarily participate in the development of their communities.

The aims of the fund also include the extension of social services directly to those who need them, through programmes designed and implemented with a coherent and methodical framework, and to support other charitable societies technically and financially, so that their services could be upgraded and the efficiency of their programmes

increased.

The fund, Princess Basma said, strives to realise these goals by the provision of both technical and financial aid and by co-ordinating with Arab and international organisations that are concerned with Jordanian social development.

Accordingly, she added, "one of the cornerstones of the fund's policy is to extend and maintain strong ties with human development organisations throughout the world."

Future plans for the fund include, the establishment of more centres for social services, programmes for the handicapped, child care centres, a programme to support social organisations in rural development programme and a programme for the development of research and study centres for social services.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday chairs a meeting of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (Petra photo)

Experts review programmes for aiding handicapped

By Rania Attalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Swedish participants in a joint seminar on child health care and the rehabilitation of the handicapped, which opened here Wednesday, exchanged experience and expertise, highlighting the need for further cooperation in matters of research, policies and programmes.

During the seminar — which was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Swedish Embassy, the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR) and the Radda Barnen Institute for Child Health Care and Development — experts from both countries reviewed policies and programmes for child health care and for the rehabilitation of the handicapped in their respective countries.

Speaking on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid said "the continuous exchange of expertise (between Jordan and Sweden) gives us an added incentive to make the right choices in selecting priorities in matters related to the rehabilitation of the handicapped."

"Since His Majesty King Hussein has stressed that our citizens are our most valuable asset, Jordan is working to minimise the risks of retardation affecting children," Prince Ra'ad said.

Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lomback said "thanks to the work of the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief and the Radda Barnen, we have felt a special closeness in cooperating with Jordanians."

"Though we are still only at the beginning, we have already started exchanging expertise on the ministerial level," the ambassador added.

Also addressing participants of the seminar was Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development Dr. Mohammad Al Saqour who presented the ministry's policy and future plans regarding the handicapped in Jordan.

"If the existing positive approach towards the handicapped is to lead to their participation in the development of this country, then certain principles have to be adhered," Saqour

said.

Among these principles, Saqour said, is dealing with the issue of the handicapped in a comprehensive way rather than in bits and pieces; abandoning the "sympathy and charity" approach and working from the basis that it is a handicapped person's right and obligation to play a constructive role in society's development.

Self development for handicapped

Saqour also pointed out the necessity of boosting the ability of the handicapped for self-development and minimising their alienation by integrating them into society.

"Determining preventive policies and measures for the problems of the handicapped" is also an important principle, from which Jordan should proceed, Saqour said.

"The programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development are but a prelude for integrating the handicapped into society," Saqour said, adding that since incidents of people becoming handicapped are a result of identifiable environmental and genetic factors which can be controlled, the ministry is concerned with the preventive aspects of the issue.

The ministry seeks to rehabilitate the handicapped to enable them to make full use of their remaining capabilities, in order to ensure self-sufficiency and prevent them from being a burden on their families and on society," he said.

He pointed out that Jordan has witnessed rapid and concrete development in services offered for the handicapped. In the 1960s, he said, there were five government and private organisations providing assistance to the handicapped. That number has gone up to 43 today.

Saqour said the quantitative improvement, witnessed in Jordan, was accompanied by a qualitative one evident in the development of guidance and counselling services for the handicapped and their families, as well as in efforts to issue legislation to formalise the rights and services for the handicapped.

He gave credit to organisations in the private, voluntary and in-

ternational sectors, for cooperating with the ministry on issues related to the handicapped. Saqour also acknowledged these organisations' efforts to improve the conditions of the handicapped in Jordan.

Head of the children's section at the Al Bashir Hospital, Dr. Sa'id Al Azzah, gave a presentation on the health condition of children in Jordan and the future plans on the matter.

"Jordan has adopted the strategy of 'health for all by the year 2000' which calls for providing primary health care for every citizen, with special emphasis on mothers and children," according to Azzah.

Giving vital statistics on conditions of children in the Kingdom, Azzah said the Health Ministry is working to improve many of them, such as the tetanus immunisation rate for pregnant women, which is now believed to be only 50 per cent.

Azzah said "the ministry believes that the best way to achieve these goals is to adopt and improve on the principle of primary health care, with special emphasis on preventive measures especially through increasing awareness and improving the environment."

He added that the ministry also believes in implementing the United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF) strategy of monitoring child growth, by promoting oral rehydration treatment, breast feeding, immunisation and child spacing.

During the seminar, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh surprised the participants when he announced that "the Ministry of Health will start providing hearing aids to schoolchildren with hearing difficulties at a token price, which will be subsidised by the ministry." The token price was not specified.

The Ministry of Health already provides free prescription glasses for schoolchildren in Jordan, Hamzeh said.

In the afternoon session, director of SOIR Angelo Jayakoddy gave a presentation entitled "twenty years of work in Jordan" in which he reviewed SOIR's activities in Jordan since 1968.

Dr. Staffan Janson, head of Radda Barnen gave a presentation entitled "severe mental retardation among Jordanian chil-

dren," based on a joint study done in cooperation with SOIR and Dr. Ayman Abu Laban on behalf of Swedish organisations in Jordan.

The subject of the study were 203 mentally retarded children admitted between 1984 and 1987 to SOIR, SOIR, which according to Janson, is the only institution in Jordan to offer boarding to severely retarded children between 2 and 9 years, "introduced in 1984, a new performance chart... making it possible to undertake a retrospective study of basic family data, social background, consanguinity, etiology and degrees of mental retardation, additional handicaps or severe diseases, preventive care and course of pregnancy in individual cases," according to Janson.

The study provides information on the 203 children (106 males, 97 females), such as their social background, their parent's educational level, the father's occupation, the degrees and types of retardation, as well as their sources of referral.

"The intermarriage within the family by parents of children studied was 67.5 per cent with the following distribution: 35 per cent were first cousins; 14.2 per cent were second cousins," Janson said.

In his conclusion, Janson said that "etiology of severe mental retardation in the investigated group seemed related to two main factors:

— Cerebral Palsy resulted mostly from high perinatal morbidity or meningitis in infancy;

— The high degree of intermarriage with a high frequency of retarded sibling suggested a concentration of negative hereditary influence."

"The above findings underscore the value of furthering antenatal and perinatal care, especially for poor people, as well as a need for genetic study and counselling," Janson concluded.

The seminar, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Majda, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, In'am Al Mufri, representatives from the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Queen Alia Fund, and other international organisations.

Lecture to discuss latest mosaic finds in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A leading expert of mosaics in Jordan, Father Michele Piccirillo, will deliver a lecture Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre on latest mosaic finds in Jordan.

The lecture, entitled "Archaeological Excavations at 'Ayoun Mousa-Mount Nebo, 1984 to 1987," is organised by the Italian embassy in cooperation with the Friends of Archaeology.

Fr. Piccirillo is a professor of Biblical history and geography at the "Stadium Biblicum Franciscanum" and has a doctorate degree in archaeology from the University of Rome.

Since 1974, Fr. Piccirillo has carried out excavation and restoration works at the Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo near Madaba.

The lecture is being held on the occasion of the first centennial of the publication by F. Gamurrini of Egeria's Travels in Arabia (Arezzo, Italy, 1887).

An international conference dedicated to the Latin Itinerary

ium Egeriae (Codex Aretinus 405) on the occasion of the first centennial of its discovery and publication by F. Gamurrini in Arezzo, has called attention to the archaeological researches conducted by the Franciscan Archaeological Institute, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, along the Roman road taken by the pilgrim to reach the Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo.

Egeria — as she writes in her memoirs — left Jerusalem at the end of the IVth century with the intention of reaching the sanctuary of Moses on Mount Nebo in Arabia. After going down to Jericho and crossing the Jordan, she stopped at Livias-Tell et Rameh, at the foot of the mountain.

Accompanied by a priest of the city "who knew the places well," she took the Roman road which goes from Livias to Ebus on the high plateau. At the Vth milestone, a detour from the main road led her to the Springs of

Moses ('Ayoun Mousa), from which it was possible to climb the peaks of Mount Nebo to visit the sanctuary.

The 'Ayoun Mousa springs in the wadi north of Mount Nebo, where the pilgrims visited a tiny church and met many monks, were visited by the explorers since 1864. Among the antiquities in the valley are dolmens, menhirs, circles, Middle and Late Bronze tombs, an Iron Age fortress (Al Meshhad), a Roman Byzantine fortress (Al Mehattha), and at least four small monasteries.

The two churches excavated so far both date from the 6th century A.D. The first was part of a small monastery which has been called the Monastery of Kayanos, after the name of a benefactor. There were two levels of mosaics floors, dated to the first half and second half of the 6th century respectively. The main motif of the upper mosaic is the portrait of a half-nude Arab soldier, a member of the auxiliary contingents of the

Roman-Byzantine army.

The second church excavated it has been called the Church of Deacon Thomas. It yielded one of the masterpieces of the mosaics of Jordan in the first half of the 6th century. An unusual feature of this mosaic is a round medallion decorated with an eagle flanked by the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the alphabet which were frequently used during the Byzantine period to refer to Jesus Christ as the beginning and end of history.

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Afghan peace — who will pay the price?

MONDAY's announcement that Washington has accepted the U.N.-mediated agreement to end the Afghan conflict, and that Secretary of State George Shultz will sign the accord with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in Geneva Thursday, is one of the most welcome developments in contemporary international relations. Washington's acceptance of the accord, coupled with Moscow's pledge to start withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan on May 15, signals the beginning of the end of one of the longest protracted regional conflicts pitting superpowers and their proxy forces. While we do not care to figure out who came out the winner in the complex bargaining that produced the agreement, we cannot dismiss the apprehension that a superpower deal may have been struck at the expense of a people who have suffered beyond description and sacrificed much in their quest for freedom and self-determination. We can only sincerely hope that this was not the case, and look forward to the peaceful return of the displaced Afghan people to their homeland to exercise their national rights and to enable their country to assume its role in the international scene as a non-aligned Islamic state.

The fine print of the Afghan agreement is yet to be known; but, notwithstanding the scepticism that some of the key issues have been skirted leaving the scene wide open for a free-for-all kind of civil war among the various Afghan factions — the Kabul government included — the Geneva accord could be seen as a good start as any for Afghan reconciliation. At the same time, the reconciliation process should indeed be initiated by the superpowers, who will serve as guarantors of the Geneva accord; any move by either Washington or Moscow to disengage themselves from the collective responsibility for the situation they would be leaving behind will only herald more bloodshed and carnage, after the eight years of war that the Afghan people lived through. Quite simply, both superpowers should ensure that the climate is set in Afghanistan for dialogue and peaceful negotiations among the rival factions, in such a manner that applies the inalienable rights of the Afghan people to choose their own government and to live in freedom and dignity. Anything short of that would be a disheartening superpower signal to all freedom-loving people in the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Seeking others help

IN the light of the serious developments in the occupied Arab territories and in view of continued Israeli terrorist activity, the need is great now for international community's interference to force Israel to desist from committing atrocities against the Arab population. Jordan chose to seek the European Community countries' assistance in this regard in view of the role which European countries can play in our region and as Europe has maintained its independence from U.S. influence in the past. Jordan has asked the EC countries to exert pressure on Israel and stop its acts of deportation, the demolition of Arab homes, violation of Arab people's human rights and to stop killing and wounding innocent civilians. The European Community countries possess vast diplomatic and economic power and are capable of exercising influence on the Israelis to force them to stop their actions. Of course, we do not expect from the Europeans to act for the Arabs in confronting the common Israeli danger, but we expect the Europeans to take meaningful action in stopping the Israelis from committing further crimes. We realise that the European influence alone cannot change the situation nor can it end Israel's aggressive policies, but we expect to see such pressure being exerted on Israel to show the world's total repugnance of such actions as those being exercised on the Arab people. But it remains for the Arabs to end this intolerable situation and join in the struggle for regaining their rights and their usurped land.

Al Dustour: Passive stand

DESPITE worldwide condemnation of Israel's violations of human right and deportation of Arab residents, the Israeli leaders continue to race against time in their drive to enforce more arbitrary measures against the oppressed Palestinian people under their control. What happened at the Arah village of Beitza near Nablus provides proof of Israel's escalation of terrorist actions. At the same time, we have been hearing statements by extremist elements in the Israeli government, calling for razing the village to the ground in revenge for the killing of the Jewish girl, despite their knowledge that she was killed by one of her friends during their attack on the village. This show of hatred to the Arabs and the subsequent deportation of eight Arab men to Lebanon, clearly manifests the criminal nature of the Zionist rulers. Of course, these extremist Israeli measures are being taken to stem the on-going uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to stifle the spirit of Arab resistance. But these stepped up practices are being encouraged by the lack of international reaction to Israel's criminal measures, and the passive Arab stand with regard to the repression being practised against their kinsmen. Even the U.N. Security Council has been barred from condemning Israel's actions, thanks to the veto power of the U.S. which continues to back Israel.

Sawt Al Shaab: Distorted picture

THE hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner have succeeded in presenting a distorted picture of Islam to the outside world through their terrorist action which is condemned by all countries. The hijackers are trying to advocate their cause: Namely the release of criminals from Kuwaiti jails, through more criminal actions against innocent people. The hijackers are assuming the name of Islam and committing their actions in the name of Islam with the sole purpose of distorting the image of this faith, and they are being encouraged to do so by a country which claims to be a supporter of Islam. This country extends a friendly hand to the Israelis and the Zionists who continue to commit atrocities in the Palestinian land and against Muslim people. This Islamic country which is in alliance with Israel continues to obtain weapons from Israel to kill Muslim people in Iraq, and at the same time encourage criminals to commit terrorist actions. All this is being done to divert world attention from the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories where the Palestinians are rising to free themselves from Israeli occupation.

War or peace in the Middle East?

By Waleed Sadi

THERE is an emergence of a consensus in the Arab World and perhaps worldwide that the fate of the U.S. Mideast peace initiative will be a slow agonising death because of Israel's deep-rooted objections to its salient features. In some Arab quarters the projected defeat of this peace plan is being met with a sense of ironic euphoria. Mr. George Shultz himself, the carrier of the peace formula, has all but given up on his mission to persuade the relevant parties to acquiesce to his peace ideas. On many fundamental points he must have noticed that the differences between the Arab and Israeli sides were irreconcilable. The Middle East jigsaw puzzle is thus becoming so complex that it needs more than a masterful juggler of conflicting perspectives and objectives to put it together.

The Arab parties most immediately concerned with the Palestine case and the Arab-Israeli conflict must have taken this preordained result rather stoically in view of the fact that they have gotten accustomed to doom and gloom every time a peace initiative is kicked off by one side or another. The chronicle of the various inconsequential peace formulas submitted on behalf of the Palestine case since its inception bears out this perennial pessimism. The Arabs have therefore developed a predisposed inkling that Mr. Shultz's most recent long shot at the Arab-Israeli conflict would not be any different from all the others which had preceded it. Indeed the Arab political psychology has gotten to be so dubious and agnostic about any offers of peace that they stand to precipitously reject even a genuinely sound peace plan.

But now that the Arabs are gazing on a dying peace plan, the question that poses itself is: What next? In other words what contingency or alternative plans do we have available to us at this critical juncture to confront the chronic situation that emerges every time we have a deflated peace formula sitting on our laps?

The immediate option that comes to mind is to declare to the Arab peoples concerned first and to Israel second and to the world at large third that after twenty years of trying to strike a reasonable deal with Israel, the Arab parties have regrettably come to a dead end with no real hope to settle peacefully the Arab-Israeli conflict. Accordingly, the Arab parties have decided with agonising reluctance

to suspend all efforts aiming at a peacefully negotiated permanent and just solution of the Palestine case and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict, pending the creation and attainment of fresh political, economic and military climate conducive for such objectives.

I believe that the mere declaration of the bankruptcy of all efforts for the peaceful resolution of the outstanding disputes and conflicts between the Arab and Israel could serve as a "shock treatment" that could awaken Israel and the rest of the powers that stand with it to the bitter fact that the Arab side has been cornered long enough and is being left with no option except to seek other avenues for obtaining their rights. The Arab side must hint at least that the medicine that they have in mind could be very bitter to both sides and would be prescribed and administered on a generational basis if necessary. Meanwhile, all sides to the conflict and other powers ostensibly concerned with the Middle East would be asked to take stock of what had transpired in the region over the last four decades and attempt to draw the necessary conclusions. The Middle East is already a powder keg and with the introduction of nuclear and chemical weapons and intermediate ballistic delivery systems, it could end up being one bell of an explosive charge that could blow to smithereens the security of not only this region of the world but also the security of other regions as well. Surely it would then dawn on Israel and the countries that support it that boycotting the peace process and potting militarism on high pitch could provide radicalism in the region with the kind of environment that they could feed on most. And let there be no mistake about it, the fire that could ensue from such a situation would engulf the Israelis most.

Meanwhile the Arab parties can exploit this abandonment of the peace process and the placement of the quest for peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts in a state of suspended automation, to engage in a cool headed planning and coordination away from the limelight of the "peace process" and the tensions associated with it. Maybe, just maybe, the Arab parties can then forge a truly in-depth common strategy among themselves with

which they can confront Israel's intransigence in a more credible way. Should the Arab side succeed in establishing a persuasive and concrete united front, the message of such unity will not be lost on Israel and the capitals that stand behind it.

What remains to be done on the short and intermediate run is to bolster and fortify the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. First and foremost we have to keep in focus that the number one priority that supersedes all other priorities is to assist the Palestinian people there to maintain their vigilance and presence on their lands in the most viable manner. The survival of the Palestinian people on their territories should be accorded the maximum attention and concern for it constitutes the backbone of their steadfastness and offers the best insurance policy that the Arab side can have to salvage the situation at the appropriate time. And what the Palestinian people need most of all in the midst of their struggle for liberation is a multi faceted, all embracing programme of action to consolidate their survival in their homeland till the Arab side attain the propitious circumstances to attain their ultimate objectives. In this vein, it would be prudent to recall the warning issued by Lord Winchelsea who headed a British delegation on a fact-finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the eve of the popular Palestinian uprising. It will be recalled that he submitted an urgent report to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on his findings immediately upon his return to his country in which he forecasted a bloody uprising in the occupied Arab territories on a scale unknown before. He also warned that Israel may exploit this uprising to launch an armed attack on Syria ostensibly to knock out its chemical weapons and their delivery systems but also to affect and cause a massive expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from the occupied Arab territories in order to get rid of or defuse the demographic time bomb sitting on its lap. Lord Winchelsea was proven right when few days later the Palestinian uprising was ignited. The world must be now bolder in its breathe lest his second forecast proves true also. The Arab side must be prepared for this possibility lest they be caught unguarded.

'Uprising should be used politically'

(Continued from page 1)

gathering, describing the uprising as the most significant development in the region in the past two decades.

"The uprising clearly declares that the Palestinian people will continue to seek freedom like all other people who suffered under colonial rule and finally won liberation," he said.

"The uprising means that the Palestinians under occupation have realised the objectives of Israel's plans of uprooting the Arab population from their homeland, and they decided to resist such plans," Abu Odeh said.

"The driving force behind this uprising," he added, "is a generation of young people who came to know the Israelis as aliens living to their midst, unlike the image in the minds of the earlier generations which envisaged Israel as a military force and a conqueror. Moreover, the youths taking part in the uprising are being supported by all political groups which see all hope and aspiration for salvation embodied in these youths' actions."

Abu Odeh said the uprising was tantamount to an all-out popular revolt and had "recified two important equations that have existed over the past 20 years:

"First, the Palestinian equation. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has succeeded over the past 20 years in making international and political gains... which prompted the other party in the equation — the Arab people under occupation — to decide to shoulder their own burden of resisting the occupation."

"Second, the relationship between the colonial power with the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. This relationship had been in a state of imbalance over the past years and the Palestinians had to adapt themselves to new developments in the region to an extent that Israeli leaders bragged that they needed only 500 policemen in the occupied territories to control their affairs and security."

Abu Odeh said: "Over these years Israel used to make an annual \$80 million profit from ruling the occupied territories; but in the first two months of the uprising Israel is estimated to have lost \$400 million."

In addition, he said, Israel has been exposed as a colonial power at a time when the world is witnessing an end to the colonial era.

Barrier of fear broken

"In fact, Israel is in an embarrassing situation before the world since it is confronting with terrorism a people determined to resist occupation with sticks and stones," the court minister said.

"The uprising has broken the barrier of fear separating the Palestinians from the colonial rulers and succeeded in bringing the PLO to the limelight of international attention after a long absence."

"The uprising has brought about the U.S. proposals and stimulated the

world's attention towards resolving the Middle East problem."

Abu Odeh noted that the uprising had brought about international sympathy for the Palestinians and reactivated efforts for a just peaceful solution for the Middle East issue.

On the Arab front, he said, the uprising has drawn a tremendous show of joy and overwhelming delight and Arab countries to be rallied behind the uprising. "The uprising focused attention on Jordan's coordination of efforts with the PLO and other Arab parties vis-a-vis the U.S. initiative leading to the six-point document handed to the U.S. secretary of state by His Majesty King Hussein," Abu Odeh said. "The uprising, which came about as a result of oppression, took Israel by surprise and prompted its government to retaliate with more repressive measures."

The uprising, the minister said, "expresses the Palestinian people's desire for freedom and a peaceful end to the Israeli occupation."

"The U.S., which has always supported Israel, now ought to reconsider its position if a peaceful settlement is to be realised," Abu Odeh said. He said the six-point Jordanian document can rightly be considered the strongest form of support for the uprising so far and perhaps the strongest since the 1967 war.

Khasawneh: Uprising manifests Arab capability

Information Minister Hani Khasawneh also spoke at the gathering and stressed that the Palestinian uprising "is an expression of the healthy Arab situation and a manifestation of the Arab Nation's capability to preserve its identity."

"The uprising is another image of the heroic stand of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Battle of Karameh and in the battles of Palestine in 1948 and resembles the Iraqi armed forces' honourable stand in defence of Arab soil in the face of Iranian aggression, and the Syrian armed forces in confronting the Israeli army in the 1973 war," Khasawneh said.

He said the Jordanian government maintains a high-level of candid relationship and free dialogue and mutual respect with the PLO.

"The continued dialogue with the PLO has led to discussions about the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace negotiations, and the dialogue is continuing in a most positive atmosphere, leading, hopefully, to resolutions that can serve the Palestinian cause," the information minister said.

Referring to the U.S. peace proposals, Khasawneh said the Arab World should not act in a hostile manner towards Israel, despite its biased attitude towards Israel. The Arab World should rather resist what is harmful to Arab interests in U.S. policies because the U.S. is the most likely arena where the Arab points of view can be accepted," he said.

The information minister noted that King Hussein insists that invitation for attending the international conference should be sent to all parties including the PLO "because Jordan, in its national stand, competes with no other Arab party and does not seek to represent the Palestinian people."

Iran says Iranians mauled in Kurdistan

(Continued from page 1)

in Al Amarrah, 60 kilometres from the Iranian border, in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on Tehran and Tahrir Tuesday.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Wissam Zahawie, in New York for talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Tuesday he saw no progress towards ending the war while Iran refused to accept Security Council Resolution 598.

Zahawie also said Iraq was ready to stop using chemical warfare if Iran agrees to do the same.

Asked about the use of poison gas, Zahawie told reporters Iraq was willing to sign an agreement with Iran to abide by the international rules of combat.

He said "Iraq also has used poisonous gas and we have ... offered to sit and sign a commitment, an agreement ... where both sides reaffirm their commitment to all international treaties, agreements and conventions and all the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations."

Zahawie was speaking to reporters after two days of meetings with Perez de Cuellar on prospects for ending the seven-and-a-half-year-old conflict.

Perez de Cuellar held similar talks last week with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larjani, who again stressed that condemnation of Iraq as "the aggressor" was an essential part of any settlement.

Israeli army uses nerve gas against Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians by Israeli soldiers using batons made of iron rods covered with plastic.

"They hit the cheekbones, causing the eye to come out," he said. "There was such a degree of accuracy that they must have had training for this particular blow."

Hiddlestone said UNRWA had employed 20 specialists to help deal with the number of injured in its camps. Medical staff were working round the clock treating patients.

Sources in the Vienna headquarters of the agency said that since last December it had recorded a total of 3,252 Palestinians injured in clashes with Israeli forces.

These included 255 suffering from gunshot wounds, 1,779 from beatings, 197 from the effects of rubber bullets and 795 from tear-gas.

In the occupied territories, United Nations relief workers and Arab hospital officials said soldiers opened fire at protesters outside a school in Jahalya camp, wounding 14-year-old Diah Ahmad Jaber in the left thigh.

Twenty other Palestinians were injured by tear-gas and rubber bullets, said Dr. Ahmad Yassih

of Gaza City's Shifa hospital, where some of the injured were treated.

In the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, soldiers confiscated identification documents from most of the men in the camp and told them they would have to pay their electricity and water bills before they would be returned, said U.N. official Eric Peterson, an administrator of the camps.

The army closed Jahalya and Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. Palestinian sources said telephone links were cut to Jahalya, where more than 1,000 school-children demonstrated at military headquarters.

In Jerusalem, police arrested eight people in a raid on the offices of the Arah Smidy Society, an Arah Jerusalem research centre.

The Israel government press office has initiated a policy of preventing some Palestinian publications from distributing announcements in the mailboxes of local and foreign journalists there.

During the night, the office removed from the boxes a daily English summary of Arabic news from Arah Jerusalem newspapers issued by the Al Fajr daily. The Israeli newspaper

Hadashot said the army had completed its inquiry into a clash last week in the West Bank town of Beitza, where two Palestinians and an Israeli girl were shot dead.

The newspaper said the report supported preliminary findings that the girl died of a shot fired by an Israeli settler and not by villagers as some hikers had alleged.

Violence continued during the night in the West Bank. An Israeli soldier and two Palestinians were slightly wounded in a clash at Kafr Tahuz when demonstrators threw stones at an army bus, the army said. It did not say how the Palestinians were injured.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has protested Israel's expulsion of eight Palestinians from the occupied territories as a breach of the Geneva conventions, a spokesman said Wednesday.

"We regret that Israel has once again taken this kind of illegal measure," ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauver said.

The Geneva conventions guarantee respect for humans in times of conflict and are supervised by the All-Swiss ICRC.

Israel expelled the Palestinians to Lebanon Monday. The ICRC also protested

Israel's destruction of Arah houses in the occupied territories, which has left more than 100 people homeless, Bauver said. Egypt said Wednesday that the Israeli expulsion obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

A Foreign Ministry statement also said the latest expulsions contradicted United Nations resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Convention.

"Egypt strongly condemns Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians which violate international law," it said.

"We regret that such actions are taken at a time when better conditions are needed to push forward current efforts for a peaceful settlement in the region."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened Tuesday to deport more Palestinians to end the Palestinian uprising.

"Deportation is one of the means of punishment we use to deter those who violate law and order. When there will be need in that we will use it," Shamir added.

"We have to continue to build the kingdom of Israel, the land of Israel, the homeland of Jewish people," he declared while touring a town in southern Israel.

Hijack negotiations enter 'delicate stage' on Algiers tarmac

(Continued from page 1)

The Boeing 747 left Larnaca and flew to Algiers early Wednesday after 12 more hostages were released.

The plane was parked in the open on the tarmac at Houari Boumedienne airport, where temperatures before noon reached 24 degrees Centigrade (75 Fahrenheit). Officials said it would be much hotter inside the aircraft.

Earlier, Algerian Interior Minister Ali Hadi Khediri spent 45 minutes on the plane talking to the hijackers, who are widely believed to be Shi'ite Muslim

supporters of Lebanon's militant, Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) faction.

Khediri said the hijackers, armed with machine-guns, had promised to try to avoid harming their remaining 32 hostages but described them as determined to pursue their demand.

"They told me they would try to be very calm, to not use any violence," he told reporters after meeting the gunmen.

He said the hostages, who include three members of Kuwait's Al Sabah royal family, were in good health.

Khediri spent 45 minutes with the head of the eight-man

Kuwaiti negotiating team. The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Osaibi, arrived in an executive jet and parked 400 metres from the hijacked Boeing.

In Kuwait, Algerian Ambassador Ali Hasnaoui Khaldi told Reuters Algiers had stipulated before accepting the plane that the hostages would have to be released.

He said both Kuwait and the gunmen understood that the hijackers would go free in exchange for releasing their captives.

Hostages released Tuesday in Cyprus said they had been kept in handcuffs by the hijackers, who wore masks at all times and communicated

by whistling to each other, threatening to kill any passenger who looked up.

"We died 20 deaths every day," said one of the 12 freed on Tuesday night, Kuwaiti businessman Saleh Ibrahim, 50. "This is a new life."

One of the 12 released in Cyprus was a U.S. citizen who said he hid the fact from the hijackers for fear they would kill him.

Egyptian-born Mohammad Ramadan Ali, 43, gave the hijackers his Egyptian passport and hid his U.S. document in his briefcase.

The hijackers released 57 hostages at Mashhad, northeast Iran, where they spent 80 hours before flying to Larnaca after trying unsuccessfully to land at Beirut.

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AMMAN JORDAN

NAAA blasts U.S. policy

WASHINGTON (R) — The president of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), attacked the United States Tuesday for failing to back up with action its condemnations of Israel's expulsion of Palestinians.

"The State Department publicly wrings its hands about the deportations, the beatings and the killings, but it refuses to consider any measures that would show the Israelis we were serious," David Sadd said in a statement.

"Considering that we (the United States) subsidize Israel through billions of dollars in aid, loan interest forgiveness, free trade, defense giveaways and tax breaks, the U.S. government has lots of options it can use to catch (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's attention," he said.

"Israel Monday expelled eight Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and said 12 more would be expelled at a later date. The move follows similar expulsions last January.

"The latest deportations show that Israeli policy is steadily aspiring to (expel) all Palestinians from their land rather than adopting a policy for human rights, including the basic rights of self-determination," Sadd said.

Kissinger declines role as Mideast negotiator

ATLANTA (R) — Henry Kissinger Tuesday rejected a suggestion by Richard Nixon, his former boss, that he be named a special U.S. negotiator on Middle East matters.

Kissinger, Nixon's national security affairs advisor and secretary of state, said the Middle East peace negotiator should be a part of the foreign policy machinery "with major influence on East-West negotiations, not just on the Middle East."

"When I was secretary of state, I did most of the negotiating," Kissinger told an audience of college students. "Secretary Shultz is in a good position now. I don't think he should be superseded."

In a television interview last

weekend former President Nixon said a "full-time, heavyweight" negotiator was needed to resolve Middle East questions and suggested Kissinger be named to the post.

Kissinger criticized portions of the U.S. Middle East peace plan, which envisions an international conference.

"I do not favour bringing the Soviets back into the Middle East negotiations at least until they make their position clear," Kissinger said.

"As long as they are just the lawyers for the most radical Arabs, it will only result in a situation in which the United States will be isolated in its position and get beaten to death by everyone," he contended.



SETTLERS AGAINST EXPOSURE: A Jewish settler with a pistol pulls down CBS cameraman Nim Devos to prevent him from filming in the occupied West Bank while AP photographer Aris Saris tries to help Devos as CBS soundman Shoomo Mor looks on. Settlers are assuming a larger profile in attacks against Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza and support the Israeli army's ban against media access to the occupied territories.

Eban backs Shultz plan

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, (R) — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Tuesday that Israel should begin negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under the auspices of a international conference as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Eban disputed claims made by some Israeli hardliners that a conference would jeopardize Israel's "security" and said the Zionist state must accept the need to give up part of its total control in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"All the (previous) conferences we have had can be divided into two groups," Eban said. "Those which have done us some good and those which have done us no harm."

Eban is chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee and is a strong proponent of changing the political status of the occupied territories in exchange for peace.

In a lecture at Trinity University here, Eban said Israel could not hope to exist as a democracy with a territory where people had no access to political participation.

He emphasized that the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied territories could pose a cultural and political challenge to Israel's existence in the future.

"If we integrate them into our parliamentary system, we lose control," he said. "If we don't integrate them, we will cease to be a democracy."

Mubarak agrees to meet Qadhafi

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak has accepted a proposal to meet with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi somewhere on the Egyptian-Libyan border or in Yugoslavia.

The meeting, if materialised, would be the most serious attempt to mend fences between the two countries after 16 years of strained relations that witnessed a five-day border war in July 1977.

Mubarak said Tuesday the proposal was made by an unnamed Qadhafi emissary but did not indicate when the suggested meeting would take place.

He said Qadhafi has sent 35 emissaries to Egypt since the Egyptian leader took office in October 1981, following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Mubarak was speaking to a group of young Arab journalists. His remarks were distributed by the Middle East News Agency.

He said the proposal called for a meeting between him and Qadhafi either in Libya, the joint border, or in Yugoslavia.

"I found it my duty to agree to meet Qadhafi on the Egyptian-Libyan border or in Yugoslavia," Mubarak said.

A Cairo magazine said a high-ranking Libyan official close to Qadhafi visited Egypt secretly last month in an effort to improve strained relations between the two countries.

The weekly Al-Mussawwar said the envoy, Colonel Abdul Fattah Younis Farag, came to Cairo to thank Mubarak for sending back four Libyan jet-fighters that were forced to land in Egypt March 1 because of adverse weather conditions and fuel shortage.

The magazine said, the chief of the Libyan eastern military zone on the border with Egypt, was expected to return soon to continue talks with Egyptian officials. There was no word whether he has actually come back.

Mubarak's agreement to meet Qadhafi also followed a speech

saying there were no troop concentrations at present on either side of the border and said the Libyan leader may want the frontier re-opened to "smuggle bombs" into Egypt.

"If we were to be serious, we should begin by allowing resumption of air traffic between the two countries," Mubarak said Tuesday.

"Why they (the Libyans) insist on land routes and nothing else, I know the full facts and my duty is to maintain Egypt's security and stability," Mubarak added.

Mubarak said Qadhafi was reinforcing some of his positions on the border at the same time that he made a speech March 28, announcing the withdrawal of his troops.

He also said Egypt possessed pictures showing Iranian planes and ships loading military equipment in Libya.

Mahdi moves to form new Sudan government

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, seeking to end Sudan's eight-month-old political crisis, has won parliamentary approval to establish a new, broad-based government.

Mahdi's proposals for a national unity government were supported by 229 deputies in the 301-seat house Tuesday.

Parliament approved the formation of a new government as soon as possible and urged a revision of all constitutional bodies in line with what it called a spirit of national unity.

The parliament vote meant Iba Mahdi's Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) — former partners in a crisis-prone coalition — could now join forces with the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), the main opposition party, and southern Sudanese parties in a new government.

Deputies from parties which supported the prime minister's proposals were meeting Wednesday to finalise future policies, the distribution of cabinet portfolios and the five seats of the Supreme Council. Sudan's collective presidency.

Political crisis has been a hallmark of party rule since democracy was restored in Sudan two years ago. The latest began last August when the DUP pulled out of the coalition in protest against the policies of Umma, the senior coalition partner.

The cabinet has since continued to function normally under an agreement between Mahdi and DUP leader Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani.

Mahdi brought the crisis to a head March 15 when he threatened to quit unless parliament approved a package of economic and political reforms.

Judge scolds prosecutors for delaying Iran-contra trial

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A judge scolded prosecutors Tuesday for delaying the disclosure of evidence to the defence, which may delay the trial of four defendants accused of illegally diverting profits from from the U.S.-Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, at a pre-trial hearing, expressed frustration that independent counsel Lawrence Walsh envisioned a lengthy process for turning over classified documents to the defendants, who likely saw the papers before they left government.

"Show the defence what your case is," Gesell told Herbert Stern, a former federal judge who is representing Walsh.

The judge also voiced annoyance about complaints that Walsh's staff has been slow to turn over documents to the team of lawyers representing Oliver North, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and two arms dealers, retired air force Major General Richard Secord and Albert Hakim.

"The government has been playing cat and mouse with us in

the case," said Poindexter's lawyer, Richard Beckler.

At a meeting the defence had with prosecutors last Friday, Beckler said: "We were basically told, 'we are not going to give you anything.' We are at real loggerheads."

Judge Gesell agreed with the defence lawyers Tuesday that the trial should not run into the presidential election campaign.

The trial will drag the embarrassing issue of the Reagan administration's greatest foreign policy blunder across the front pages one more time, posing political problems for Vice President George Bush, who has a virtual lock on the Republican presidential nomination.

Defence lawyers have indicated that Bush may even be sought as a witness at the trial.

"I am concerned about the wisdom of having the trial underway when ballots are being cast," Gesell said.

"I am frightened to have the trial during a political campaign year," said North's lawyer, Brendan Sullivan.

But Gesell appeared to lean towards starting the trial as early

as possible — he suggested July 12 as a possibility — while Sullivan and other defence lawyers told him they would prefer it be put off until next year, following the elections and after Reagan leaves office.

Reagan has not ruled out a pardon for his former aides, but has said he would not consider one before a trial.

Gesell invited defence lawyers to file a motion challenging the White House for restrictions it has imposed on allowing them access to an estimated one million pages of classified documents.

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World Bank establishes new agency to protect investments

WASHINGTON (R) — A World Bank agency designed to protect private investors from political risks in developing countries has been formally established after getting a final nod of approval from the United States and Britain.

World Bank President Barber Conable announced Tuesday that enough countries had ratified the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to allow its formation, and said a meeting would be held June 8 to establish its bylaws.

Conable said he was hopeful that MIGA, proposed for the first time two-and-a-half years ago, would begin insuring private investment sometime this year.

"Development demands investment," Conable told reporters, adding that direct private investment in developing countries had fallen to less than \$10 billion last year from \$16 billion in 1981.

He expressed hope this would be reversed with the help of

MIGA, but said he could not quantify how great the improvement would be.

Bank officials stressed that MIGA's reach would go far beyond economic risks associated with armed conflict and civil unrest in Third World countries.

They told reporters that the agency would also cover the loss of profits a foreign investor could suffer if denied the right to repatriate funds from investments abroad.

In addition, investors would be protected if governments decided to repudiate contracts while denying investors a forum to appeal the ruling.

Conable said that in the future, the agency's operation might even be amended to allow

guarantees of commercial bank loans under certain circumstances.

Moreover, the agency might encourage Third World investors who have pulled funds out of their countries for more protective investment havens such as the United States to reinvest at home under the protection of MIGA.

The new agency comes into being as finance ministers and central bankers are holding semi-annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At its meeting here, the IMF has reached agreement on the creation of a pool of funds to protect developing countries against sudden and sustained increases in interest rates.

Details of the new facility have yet to be worked out, but it will go beyond the present compensatory financing facility that helps countries hurt by a sudden drop in exports due to conditions beyond their control.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan outlines new transport rules during a Wednesday press conference (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan clarifies new transport rules

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Economic Security Committee's resolutions concerning axial weights for all lorries, including fuel tanker trucks and facilities and incentives for land transport companies and truck owners, will allow non-Jordanian trucks to transport agricultural and industrial products from and into the country freely and with no restrictions.

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Wednesday.

Before the resolution was issued, trucks and fuel tanker trucks paid JD 75 on a monthly basis for obtaining transportation licence from Amman to Iraq or within Jordan and paid a JD 100 fine for every violation of the law, the minister said at a press conference.

Commenting on the resolution which has issued Tuesday and which will go into effect April 16, the minister said that the resolution allows non-Jordanian trucks found at the free zones before April 16 to obtain temporary Jordanian licence plates against an annual JD 1,200 fee.

The resolution aims to stimulate the Jordanian transport sector and facilitate the flow of

goods between Jordan and Iraq in a bid to support that country's war efforts, Haj Hassan said.

He added that the resolution on axial weights aimed to provide protection to Jordanian roads and safeguard public safety.

This resolution is also aimed at tackling new developments and overcoming problems encountered by the transport sector to safeguard Jordan's higher economic interests, the minister noted.

He said that the resolution offered a time limit for truck owners to abide by the new regulations concerning axial weights. He emphasised that the fines imposed on those failing to abide

by the regulations by the end of 1988 were not intended to collect money for the treasury but to enforce the law and prevent trucks from carrying extra weights.

Trucks with non-Jordanian licence plates and owned by Jordanians are now allowed to obtain Jordanian licence plates and their owners can pay the customs duty on them by instalments over three years, Haj Hassan pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing has been entrusted with providing balancing machines to help define the weights of each lorry.



Royal Jordanian Board Chairman Ali Ghandour addresses meeting of Arab Air Carriers Organisation (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Arab air chiefs discuss cooperation

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The wind of change is beginning to blow in the direction of the air transport industry and the world is now witnessing the merger of major airlines in America and in Europe to confront mounting challenges to the modern civil aviation age.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Executive President and Board Chairman Ali Ghandour said here Wednesday.

He said that this development warrants increased interaction and coordination among Arab airlines to deal with any eventual challenge and new developments.

Ghandour said at a meeting of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO's) commercial committee at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

He said that the competition among Arab airlines should be on improving services and not on passenger seats or flights.

Ghandour added that a great deal hinges on the AACO's commercial committee which assumes a serious responsibility in Arab civil aviation.

The RJ chief urged the committee to serve as a catalyst to increase inter-cooperation among Arab airlines and help them to deal with world developments in the field of civil aviation.

AACO's Secretary General Adil Dajani made a speech at the meeting expressing the organisation's regret over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airline plane voicing hope that the affair will end in a peaceful settlement and bring to an end to the ordeal of the passengers.

Dajani reviewed the committee's main topics before the meeting elected the Syrian delegate to serve as chairman of the committee.

Most Arab airlines are represented at the two-day meeting which will address a number of questions like automatic reservation and dealings with travel agents.

Also to be discussed is the U.S. Transport Department's new civil

aviation regulations, the recent Arab air markets' tariffs for economy class passengers and other related topics.

At the end of the first session, Dajani sent a cable on behalf of the delegates to the Kuwaiti Airways Board Chairman Ahmad Al Mushari expressing condemnation of the hijacking of the Kuwait passenger plane as a terrorist act and voicing the organisation's solidarity and backing for the Kuwaiti Airways and all those who stood to suffer as a result of this affair.

Australia liberalises car imports

CANBERRA (R) — Australia took the brake off car imports Wednesday under a plan to make its own industry more competitive.

The new tariff-cutting measures lessen protection for the car industry by immediately abolishing rules limiting the number of imported cars to 20 per cent of the market at normal duty rates.

Any cars imported above quota have a massive 85 per cent duty on their price.

"This will help our car industry to improve its performance," John Button, industry, technology and commerce minister told reporters.

Tariffs, which currently raise the cost of imported cars by 57.5 per cent, will continue to be imposed on the cars but they will be progressively lowered.

They will be immediately cut to 45 per cent and reduced to a rate of 35 per cent by 1992, by which

time the government hopes to have totally revamped the car industry.

Under the government's overall plans for the car industry, launched in January 1985, the number of models produced in Australia has been reduced from 13 to eight.

The number of Australian car-makers is also down to five — Ford, Nissan, General Motors Holden, Mitsubishi and Toyota.

Of these producers, G.M.-Holden and Toyota intend to form a joint venture and Nissan and Ford are looking into opportunities for cooperation, Button said.

The ultimate aim is that, faced with the new foreign competition, Australian carmakers will price their cars more competitively, he said.

The on-the-road cost of an average family saloon is currently 23,000 dollars (\$17,000), a price

rise of about 3,000 dollars (\$2,200) since April last year.

This, coupled with a hold-down on wage rises to fight inflation, now seven per cent, has hit all car sales over the past few years.

Passenger car registrations have dropped considerably, being 509,590 vehicles in calendar 1985, of which 120,600 were imported. The total in 1986 was 398,882 (76,733 imported), and in 1987 there were 364,029 (55,505 imported).

With induced lower prices and taking advantage of a lower Australian dollar, the government hopes that the Australian car industry can become a major exporter.

However, the Labour government, apparently to assuage unions, has retained the requirement that 85 per cent of the components in Australian cars should be made in Australia.

Boeing promises to defects correct aircraft

SEATTLE (R) — Executives of Boeing Co., stung by complaints from major customers and a U.S. government safety directive, pledged Tuesday to act to correct defects in some of its 747 and 767 jets.

The executives, at a news conference called to address the situation, said the company has received letters from at least four big customers complaining about quality control in their planes.

Phil Condit, executive vice president of Boeing's Commercial Airplane Co., said Japan Air Lines, British Airways Plc., the American Airlines unit of AMR

Corp., and All Nippon Airways had complained.

One complaint involved a fire extinguisher system in the 767-200 extended-range aircraft, he said. Pipes for the system, which is composed of bottles containing fire depressant, were misrouted in some aircraft and resulted in fire suppressant being released in the wrong compartments, he said.

Condit said workers at the American Airlines facility in Tulsa, Okla., had discovered the problem and notified Boeing.

Condit said complaints from Japan Air Lines (JAL) involved

faulty extinguisher bottles and incorrect installation of temperature sensors for the four-engine 747 Jumbo jet, which caused temperature gauges to register for the wrong engines. JAL is Boeing's single biggest customer.

Condit said the company is attempting to correct all the defects and it is notifying all other operators of its planes about the problems.

The Boeing executives said the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a directive to the company ordering it to correct the defects.

"Because of its significance, the Federal Aviation Administration put out an airworthiness directive," Condit said.

An FAA spokesman in Seattle said the agency expects to issue a statement regarding its investigation of the complaints later this week. The spokesman described the FAA inquiry as routine.

The Boeing executives said there is not, however, a drop in the quality of workmanship on its airplanes.

"There is no detectable drop in the quality of the airplanes," said Boeing spokesman Craig Martin.

Americans teach Soviets tricks of advertising

MOSCOW (R) — American salesmen administered a culture shock to managers from Soviet state industry Tuesday, telling them at a Moscow seminar on advertising techniques that "the consumer is king."

Officials of Coca-Cola, American Express, chemical firm Monsanto and public relations consultants Young and Rubicam spoke at the one-day course as 500 U.S. businessmen opened a meeting with Soviet officials to explore trade opportunities.

"It's very interesting but a bit vulgar," said Aleksei Kozmovo of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce after hearing an illustrated talk on how Coca-Cola Co. launched a new, low-calorie brand of the famous soft drink.

"I will pass on what I have

learned to Soviet enterprises but at the moment we don't need much advertising because we don't have enough goods. Maybe after 'perestroika' we will need it," she added.

She was referring to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms which Moscow says have opened up new prospects for foreign firms to expand business with the Soviet Union.

The 500 executives were discussing projects such as joint ventures with some 300 Soviet managers at the annual meeting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC), a private group linking U.S. business and Soviet industry.

At the advertising seminar, Marc Hamburger, Coca-Cola's assistant vice-president for marketing, showed television commercials to illustrate how "Diet Coke" was sold worldwide.

"Having a superior product doesn't mean much unless the

consumer knows about it. Your package must stand out on the shelf," he told a curious but suspicious audience.

"How do you convince people that advertisements tell the truth?" asked a Soviet listener. The answer was that in a free market the consumer has choice and if the seller strains his credibility the disappointed customer shops elsewhere.

American managers at the trade fair said one of their greatest problems in doing business with Soviet firms was finding a common economic language.

"Once we understood each other's concepts we had few problems in negotiating," said James Verrant of industrial control systems maker Honeywell Inc., which Monday announced the launch of a joint venture aimed at helping to modernise the Soviet chemical fertiliser industry.

Not all Soviet participants at

the seminar needed to be convinced of the benefits of advertising.

"We must follow their example. He have good products but we need to show they are good," said Bogdan Lischina, director of the "Azor" chemical factory in Severodonetsk in the Ukraine.

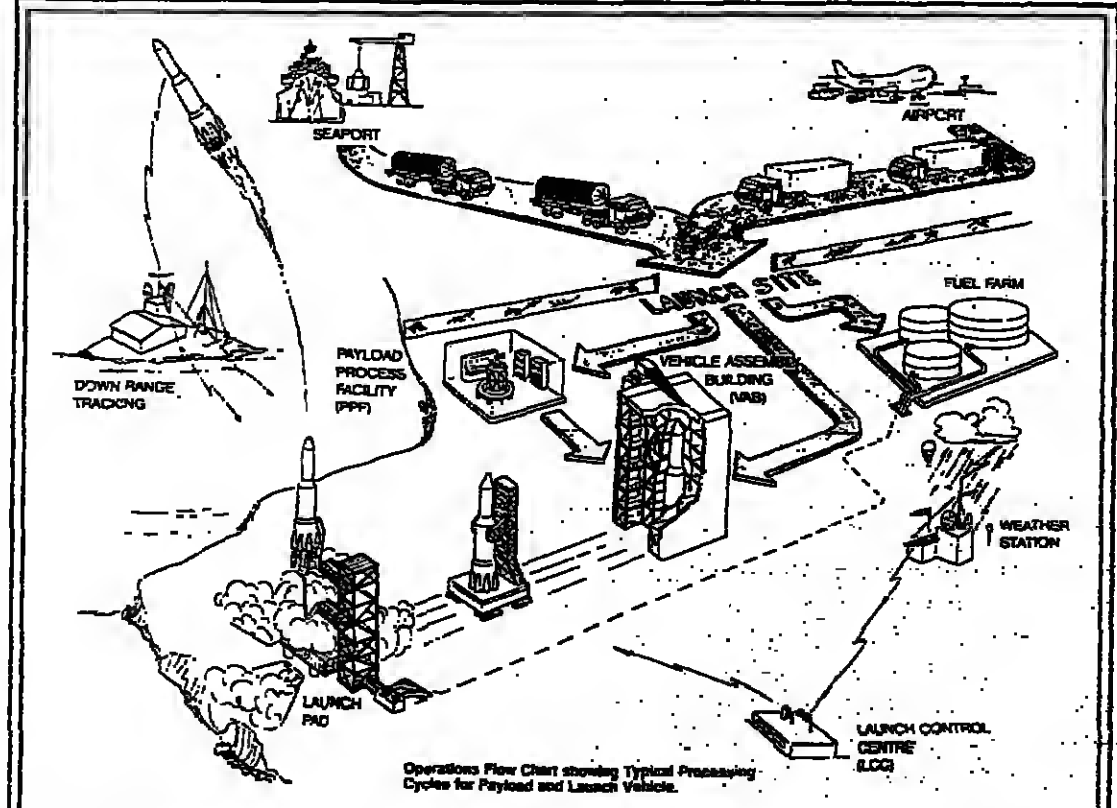
Lack of advertising is one of the first features which strikes foreign visitors to the Soviet Union. People hear by word of mouth when desirable items go on sale and, given the shortage of many goods, that is enough to ensure a sellout.

Al Jaber approves budgets

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Minister Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has approved a JD 310,000 budget for Deir Alla town in the Jordan Valley region.

The lion's share of the budget, some JD 179,000, will be used to finance the construction of roads while the rest will finance setting up public gardens and purchases of land for public services.

The minister also endorsed a JD 83,955 budget for the town of Sakhara. The funds will finance a number of small projects.



AMMAN (Agencies) — TNT Limited, the world's largest transportation company, is lead member in a unique consortium beginning the massive task of undertaking a \$10 million feasibility study for the world's first commercial spaceport at Cape York, Australia which will cost more than \$1.5 billion to complete.

John Robertson, TNT Skypak's regional director for the Middle East said that the consortium members are drawn together under the name Cape York Space Agency Pty. Ltd. which was appointed

by the Queensland government to coordinate the spaceport study.

Other members of the consortium include Kaiser Engineers, Shimizu Construction, JLC Aerospace, and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Queensland Premier Mike Ahern said the company was the most advanced of 60 bidders for the task, in terms of conceptual development of the overall operation and management of a multi-national, multi-user, multi-pad space transportation centre.

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Ending session hailed as most democratic and open

China's congress reconfirms commitment to reform

PEKING (Agencies) — China's parliament Wednesday ended an annual 20-day session hailed as its most democratic and open by passing laws that reconfirm the government's commitment to economic reform.

The National People's Congress' 2,900 delegates approved a report by Premier Li Peng that urged more economic reforms and acknowledged that rising prices and faltering agricultural production have become serious problems. There were three opposing votes and six abstentions.

The congress produced few surprises and solidified Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang's position as the nation's strongest political figure behind his mentor, semi-retired senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

Zhao, 69, who became party chief last year after seven years as premier, advocates a rapid shift away from central planning and toward a more market-oriented economy that would be more efficient and competitive. The congress, as expected, named General Yang Shangkun as state president and Wan Li as chairman of the congress. Both are allies of Deng and Zhao and solid supporters of reform. They replaced the conservative Li Xian'an and Peng Zhen.

On Tuesday, the legislature also named a new state council, or parliament, that stressed continuity with Zhao's policies. A majority of ministers either retained their posts or turned them over to younger bureaucrats within their ministries.

Backing reform

Li Peng, 59, who was confirmed as premier earlier in the

session, is regarded as being less concerned with reform than with economic stability. But his report, delivered on the opening day of the session, backed Zhao's reform programme, tempered only by several warnings against being too impetuous in revamping the economic system.

The official Xinhua News Agency said more than 100 changes were made in the final version of the report, with more emphasis given to education and the issue of China's minority nationalities.

The revised report encourages employees of universities and institutes to work at second jobs on university-related projects such as the sale of new university-developed products or in school-run industries. The aim is to bring more revenue to the schools and to bolster incomes.

That issue spurred protests during the congress by students and teachers who say education is underfunded and that academics should not be made to do outside work.

The report emphasises the importance of protecting the rights of China's minorities. Buddhist monks in Tibet in recent months have led violent demonstrations against what they say is oppression by authorities in Peking.

The delegates passed, with two opposing votes and 11 abstentions, a law which is to end direct state controls over state enterprises and give factory managers greater authority over their operations.

Under the law, managers will be responsible for profits and losses and, after consultation with local worker unions, can decide on hiring and firing, bonuses and punishments for workers.

The party secretaries who previously had final say over business operations are ordered not to interfere with day-to-day affairs.

No division

In a later development, China's new premier denied that the nation's leaders were divided over reform policies.

"There are no policy differences between Communist Party Secretary Zhao Ziyang and myself," Li Peng told a rare news conference televised live after the congress closed its session.

Appearing before foreign reporters for the first time since last year's meeting of the National People's Congress, Li also denied at length that he had been promoted because of his close relationship with premier Chou En-lai who died in 1976.

Western diplomats and some Chinese officials say in private that Li, who was brought up by the popular Chou and his wife as an adopted son, has used the connection in an alleged rivalry with Zhao, the party leader.

Foreign media who pitted differences between himself and Zhao were wrong, Li said.

Dressed in a dark business suit, Li, a 59-year-old Soviet-trained engineer, said his new government would "place reform at the centre of all our undertakings."

Informed Chinese sources and diplomats point to serious differences between Li and Zhao who is seen as more liberal and keen to push the open-door policy at a faster pace.

Human survival conference tackles nuclear threat

OXFORD, England (AP) — American astronomer Carl Sagan accused the superpowers Tuesday of booby-trapping planet earth with 60,000 nuclear weapons.

Forty-two years after the first atomic bomb, he said, the superpowers have spent about \$10 trillion apiece on the cold war, and nuclear weapons have still not accomplished their original goal of ensuring national security.

One U.S. or Soviet nuclear submarine captain now has the power of life and death over 200 cities, he said, "a power greatly in excess of that which God is said to have demonstrated in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah."

Sagan was one of the main speakers at the First Global Conference on Human Survival, a meeting of 200 spiritual leaders and elected lawmakers that is occupied with the greatest threat to humankind—the possibility of nuclear annihilation.

"No proper place to hide" "Today, in the nuclear age, I think everyone is a target," said the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists.

"There is no proper place to hide—but I may survive because I live in a little village in the Himalayas," he said, as the audience at Oxford's town hall laughed.

Sagan said there was some "very preliminary progress" — last year's treaty eliminating all medium-range nuclear weapons and the current negotiations to cut long-range missiles by 50 per cent.

Dr. Yevgeny Velikhov, an adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said the next step toward a world without nuclear weapons should be a 95 per cent cut in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers.

"I hope after the 50 per cent cut, it is reasonable to go down to deep cuts," he said. "In my view it is completely safe to go to 5 per cent of existing nuclear potential."

The Soviet said he hoped such an agreement could be achieved "before the next century."

Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said such an agreement would require the superpowers to replace all multiple warheads on missiles with single warheads.

If the Soviets and Americans agree to deep cuts, Velikhov said, other nuclear powers including Britain, France and China would also have to cut their nuclear arsenals.

"Vast and obscene arsenal" Sagan said the superpowers have accumulated "a vast and obscene arsenal" of nuclear weapons.

"The United States and the Soviet Union have booby-trapped the planet with 60,000 nuclear weapons. They have always done it from very high-minded patriotic motives, each responding to the aggressive acts of the other, always in high moral dudgeon," he said.

Were faked Reagan quotes a scandal or business as usual?

By Christopher Reuter

WASHINGTON — When former White House spokesman Larry Speakes fabricated quotations and put them into President Reagan's mouth, was he fomenting a scandal or practising Washington public relations as usual?

There is sharp disagreement on this question among the experts in the U.S. capital, termed a "ghost town" by one political magazine because of the frequency with which politicians win fame through ghost writers — professional communicators who write under their employers' names.

In his memoirs, Speakes admitted making up newsworthy quotes and pretending Reagan said them during a 1983 East-West crisis and a 1985 Geneva summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

News reporters and public relations experts have reacted with shock. Current White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater Tuesday accused Speakes of perpetrating a "damn outrage."

Speakes, who spoke for Reagan for six years, stands accused of — among other things — manipulating the press, jeopardising Reagan's credibility and distorting history.

No surprise

But some critics say his revelations should come as no surprise in Washington, where politicians rarely pen their own thoughts and often stage "pseudo-events" to bolster their images and win votes.

These critics say Speakes' dis-



Larry Speakes

closure surely would raise no eyebrows in the Reagan White House, where the 77-year-old president is said to display little interest in detail, delegate much authority and likes to follow scripts — much as he did as a Hollywood actor in the 1940s and 50s.

Speakes reported in his book, "Speaking Out," that at Reagan's first summit with Gorbachev in Geneva in 1985, the U.S. delegation feared the president might be bowled over by an aggressive Soviet public relations machine and by highly articulate Gorbachev.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Speakes told reporters in Geneva that at the close of one private discussion with Gorbachev, Reagan had said: "There is much that divides us, but I believe the world breathes easier because we are talking here together."

In fact, Reagan had said no such thing. A Speakes aide had fabricated the remark on Speakes' order, he now admits.

Opposition plans new moves against Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh opposition leaders called a meeting Wednesday to plan new moves against the government after President Hussein Muhammad Ershad lifted a state of emergency imposed last November.

A coalition of 21 opposition parties dismissed Ershad's action as cosmetic and vowed to continue their campaign of strikes and protest to force the 58-year-old former army general to resign.

It said the meeting would discuss ways to step up the campaign against Ershad whom it accuses of running a corrupt government.

The lifting of the emergency was announced Tuesday.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of the opposition Awami League, said Ershad ended the emergency to forestall possible criticism at a meeting of Bangladesh's Western aid donors in Paris Thursday.

Planning Minister A.K. Khan-daker has already left for France where he will ask for \$2.2 billion in aid for the year beginning July.

"It would be ridiculous for him (Ershad) to ask for money while keeping his country under subjugation," Hasina told Reuters.

Ershad put curbs on civil liberties and press freedom and banned anti-government protests on Nov. 27.

Honduras lifts emergency state

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) — The government said it will revoke a 5-day state of emergency because the streets of Honduras' two largest cities remained calm following last week's violent anti-U.S. protests.

"The causes for which the situation was decreed have disappeared and normality has returned," presidential spokesman Lisandro Quesada said Tuesday.

"Therefore, the individual guarantees that our constitution establishes will be restored," at 6 a.m. (1200 GMT) Wednesday, he said.

The government imposed the emergency decree April 8 after

demonstrators sacked and burned the U.S. consulate on April 7 to protest the forced deportation of an alleged drug trafficker. Five Hondurans were killed in the violence.

The decree gave police and military authorities sweeping powers of search and arrest in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. It also permitted officials to ban public protests and restrict freedom of movement.

About 2,000 people attacked and set fire to the U.S. consulate and offices of the U.S. Information Service. The U.S. embassy, in the same complex, was not damaged.

De Mita forms government

ROME (AP) — Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco De Mita Wednesday formed Italy's 48th postwar government, ending a month-long political crisis, officials announced.

The 60-year-old De Mita put together a coalition of his party, the Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals, the same five-party alliance that has governed Italy through most of the 1980s.

De Mita presented his list of cabinet ministers to President Francesco Cossiga at the Quirinal Palace, formally ending the government crisis triggered by the resignation of Christian Democrat premier Giovanni Goria on March 11.

Goria stepped down after eight turbulent months in office, his coalition weakened by factional disputes in his own party as well as feuding with the Socialists, led by former premier Bettino Craxi.

Leaders of the five parties agreed on the terms for the new government Monday, and the parties met again separately Tuesday to give their final endorsement.

The crucial support came from the Socialists, the second-largest party in the coalition and a frequent foil for the Christian Democrats.

Hitching to the hospital

AVELLINO, Italy (AP) — An injured man riding unattended in the back of an ambulance fell out onto the roadway and had to hitchhike the rest of the way to the hospital, Italian newspapers reported Tuesday. The reports said Carmine Urciuolo, 23, a native of this town 56 kilometres southeast of Naples, and the stretcher on which he was riding fell out of the ambulance because the driver had not correctly closed the rear doors of the vehicle. Urciuolo had been injured in a traffic accident. Not until the ambulance reached the hospital emergency room did the driver realise that the patient was no longer in the vehicle. The patient was brought to the hospital in a private car and treated for minor injuries. The newspapers gave no details on what type of injuries the man had suffered in the car accident and whether he was also hurt in the fall from the ambulance.

Trimming the hedges

COIMBRA, Portugal (R) — Surgeons stitched back a 34-year-old gardener's penis after it was sliced off by a hedge trimmer, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday. "I'm feeling fine now," Manuel Pinho Pardo said after the operation, the first of its kind in Portugal.

Sonny wins, too

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Sonny Bono was elected mayor of this desert resort community Tuesday, one day after Cher, his former wife and singing partner, won the Academy Award for Best Actress. Bono beat six other candidates in an election in which unofficial returns gave him 62 per cent of the vote. The victory makes Bono, now a restaurateur and actor, California's newest celebrity mayor. Film star Clint Eastwood ended his two-year term as mayor of Carmel, near San Francisco, Tuesday. Campaign attacks on 53-year-old Bono, a resident of Palm Springs for 14 years, called him an "aging hippie" and a "has-been" clinging to the coattails of his former wife, who won an Oscar for her performance in "Moonstruck." Bono said he would keep his campaign promises to revitalise Palm Springs.

Angels arrested

LOS ANGELES (R) — Six members of the Guardian Angels, a volunteer anti-crime group, were arrested here on Tuesday in a mounting controversy over a gang film, "Colors." Members of the red-beretted Guardian Angels, who claim the film glorifies violence and could touch off battles among some of the 70,000 gang members in Los Angeles, were picketing Orion Pictures, which is distributing the film, when six were arrested on charges of trespassing. The group's leader, Curtis Silva, had said he would take over the company's offices as an act of civil disobedience. Los Angeles Sheriff Sherman Block said he would post extra police patrols outside cinemas in known gang areas when the film, starring Robert Duvall and Sean Penn, opens Friday. Penn and Duvall play policemen fighting gangs in Los Angeles. Guardian Angels paraded earlier outside the homes of Penn and Dennis Hopper, who wrote and directed the film.

'Witch-hunt'

LONDON (AP) — The actress Vanessa Redgrave Monday condemned a law banning the promotion of homosexuality, saying the legislation would lead to a witch-hunt. Redgrave told the annual meeting of Equity, the actors' union, that the controversial legislation, which is to take effect June 1, harkened back to the Nazi era. "Clause 28 means one thing and one thing alone — the most ferocious witch-hunting of anyone saying homosexuality is not a crime against human nature," said Redgrave. "The Nazis did it in the 1930s." The union rejected her call to take strike action against the bill but agreed to stage "every possible act of protest" to fight the clause. The clause, which has passed through Parliament and is to take effect June 1 after receiving the Queen's approval, will forbid the promotion of homosexuality in schools and clamp down on local government spending on such programmes as Lesbian Gay Strength And Pride Week. Critics say the wording of the bill is so vague it could lead to local authorities censoring of words by writers who write homosexuality such as Oscar Wilde and E.M. Forster.

U.S. Marines fire on intruders after one sentry killed

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Marine guards fired on suspected intruders at a U.S. air base one night after an American sentry was killed in a similar shooting incident at the base, U.S. officials said.

The officials said there were no casualties in two hours of gunfire Tuesday night by Marines guarding the underground fuel storage depot at Howard Air Force base outside Panama City.

On Monday night, a U.S. Marine, Corporal Ricardo Villahermosa, 25, was killed while investigating a suspected break-in at the storage depot.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said Tuesday that Villahermosa apparently was shot accidentally by fellow Marine guards, but added there had in

recent weeks been a series of intrusions at the base by "individuals who were uniformed and camouflaged."

"When one has intruders into the base perimeter, who are in uniform and are camouflaged, the assumption that one comes to is that of course they are" members of Panama's Defence Forces, he told reporters in Washington.

Panama's military called Howard's statements irresponsible, saying they were aimed at justifying a military intervention.

During the incident Tuesday night, guards at the depot fired on "an unknown number of persons" who appeared to be armed and were "inside and on a U.S. military facility," said Air Force

Colonel Ron Sconyers, a spokesman attached to the U.S. Southern Command.

"There were flares going off and there were reports of gunfire for a couple of hours," he said. "It was heavy at first, light at the end."

The colonel said the firing began at about 7:35 p.m. (0035 GMT Wednesday) at the Arriaran Tank Farm, which is surrounded by an 8-foot steel mesh fence topped by barbed wire. Sconyers said it was not known if the Marine guards were themselves under fire. He said he could not identify the intruders.

About two hours later, most of Panama City was plunged into darkness by an apparently unrelated power failure.

Earlier, another Southern Command spokesman, Lieutenant-Commander Doug Schamp, told reporters there was "no reason at all at this time" to suspect Panamanian military involvement in Monday's shooting incident.

Villahermosa was one of nearly 2,000 Marines and army personnel sent to Panama in the past few weeks to step up security for the Panama Canal, other U.S. installations and American citizens.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

23 killed in S. Africa plane crash

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A chartered DC-3 Dakota aircraft carrying jockeys and trainers to a race meeting crashed in flames and exploded in South Africa killing all 23 people on board, a Transport Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Race course officials said in a statement a number of well-known South African jockeys were on the plane when it crashed into a field Tuesday near the railway town of Hennenman, 250 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg. Transport Ministry spokesman Leon Els said all 20 passengers and three crew members on board the Dakota, operated by the United Air Charter Company, were killed when the plane crashed about halfway through a flight from Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State to Johannesburg.

Former president Chun resigns advisory posts

SEOUL (AP) — Former President Chun Doo-hwan resigned Wednesday as a government adviser and apologised to the nation for the conduct of his younger brother, who faces trial in a corruption scandal. Chun told a news conference he was resigning as chairman of the Advisory Council of State Elders, which advises the president on the conduct of national affairs. He also resigned as honorary chairman of the Democratic Justice Party. Chun apologised for the conduct of his younger brother, Chun Kyung-hwan, and said he had failed to control him. "I blame my own lack of discretion," he said. The younger Chun is awaiting trial on charges of embezzling millions of dollars in cash, stocks and land while he was president of the semi-official Saemaul Urban and Rural Development Movement. He was named to the post by the former president.

Byrd to step down as Senate majority leader

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senator Robert Byrd announced Tuesday he would step down as Senate Majority leader at the end of the year, saying he could do more for his constituents as chairman of a major committee. "I have decided that this will be my final term as Democratic leader," the 70-year-old West Virginia senator told reporters after informing fellow Democrats at a party luncheon. Byrd, first elected to the Senate in 1958 after six years in the House of Representatives, said he would run for reelection in November and expected to be chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which allocates funds for all government agencies. "I can do more for West Virginia as chairman of the Appropriations Committee," said Byrd. Byrd has been the Democrats' Senate leader since 1977, first as majority leader and then as minority leader from 1981 until 1987 when Republicans had a majority in the Senate.

Britain's royal watchers say Prince Charles needs a real job

By Deborah Telford Reuter

LONDON — It is high time that Prince Charles was given a real job, according to Britain's royal watchers.

Royal commentators seem to be sympathising more and more with the Prince of Wales's feeling that being a man of action, occasionally reclusive philosopher and father of two is not enough for a future king with a conscience.

The Daily Telegraph warned this month that Charles's politically sensitive work with the unemployed and help in regenerating Britain's run-down inner cities could be curbed by the Conservative government if he goes too far.

"It is the unwelcome scent of socialism, of something must be done, about some of his speeches that breeds in Downing Street the suspicion that the prince is not, regrettably, 'one of us'," the staunchly pro-royal Telegraph said.

A real job

Rather than playing "the licensed royal gadfly, hopping from platform to platform and issue to issue," Charles should be given a real job like chairing a major environmental body, it said.

Charles's problem as he approaches 40 in November is not that time is passing too fast, but that he is running out of ways to

kill it until he ascends a throne for which he has been groomed since birth.

He could be at least 60 before he becomes king. His 61-year-old mother Queen Elizabeth II is in good health and showing no signs of wanting to abdicate.

A brush with death in Switzerland last month when he was narrowly missed by an avalanche that killed one of his close friends has narrowed his options and stoked his known capacity for self-criticism and guilt.

Charles, who accepted responsibility for taking the skiing party on a dangerous slope at Klosters appears publicly chastened by Major Hugh Lindsay's death.

While he struggled privately to handle his grief, the solemn-faced prince also had to cope with endless amateur philosophising from some royal watchers who said he blamed himself for the accident and was heading for a breakdown.

Most said Charles, who took up flying and parachuting to compensate for his cosseted royal lifestyle, had to realise such sports were too dangerous for the future head of a monarchy that was still the focus of national unity and pride.

"The Prince of Wales does not seek danger for his own sake. He seeks it as a means of testing himself. By any standard he has now passed that test. His courage is legendary. There is now a further test for him to take and



Prince Charles

pass: that of accepting the necessity to renounce danger in the line of duty," Peregrine Worsthorne, the Sunday Telegraph editor, wrote after Lindsay's death.

Prince Charles appears to be caught in a web of disapproval whichever way he turns.

Britain's tabloid press has ridiculed his penchant for organic gardening, Jungian philosophy and homeopathic medicine — caricaturing him as a "loon prince" and a "hermit heir."

Charles disdains the press but usually adheres to royal protocol by suffering their side-swipes in silence.

His patience finally holed over a few months ago. He summoned three newspa-

per editors to a private lunch where he is reported to have said he was sick of the press turning the royal family's private lives into a public soap opera and trivialising his efforts to solve Britain's social problems.

Fighting every inch

When one editor suggested the royal family helped create demand for soap-opera coverage by allowing television cameras into Kensington Palace, the prince is reported to have fumed that such a remark implied he should avoid controversy and limit himself to ceremonial appearances and bland opinions.

"I've had to fight every inch of my life to escape royal protocol," a witness reported Prince Charles as saying.

"You're suggesting that I go back and play polo. I wasn't trained to do that. I have been brought up to have an active role," Charles is reported to have said.

Even as a bachelor he shunned the pleasure-seeking of his predecessors and kept ribbon-cutting ceremonies to a minimum.

"I'm driven by the feeling I've had for a long time through travelling around this country... that I personally mind about the conditions in which people live," he said in December.

"I feel that in my particular position I can't just sit here and not do something about it."

Some sections of British society have encouraged his involvement in political debate. "He can use his position, and his access to privileged information, to appeal to the consciences of politicians," the Observer said recently.

Charles has already entered debates over the work of Britain's contemporary architects, frequently attacking them for ignoring the feelings and wishes of ordinary people.

In the end, it is the feelings of ordinary Britons that Queen Elizabeth cannot ignore when she considers abdicating the throne to her oldest son.

The abdication of her uncle King Edward VIII, who left his throne in 1936 for the love of American divorcee Wallis Simpson, sent shock waves through Britain and changed Princess Elizabeth's life by placing her second in line to the throne.

The queen is said to be a staunch opponent of abdication, believing she should rule until her death.

She is also said to be concerned about public perceptions of Charles's marriage to his wife Diana which could affect his suitability for the throne.

Press speculation was rife last year that the fairytale marriage that wooed the nation in 1981 was, on shaky ground and the queen was reported in British newspapers to have told Diana and Charles they must be seen to be getting along in public.